

**Testimony in Favor of**  
**LD 488, A Resolve To Expand Recovery Community Centers**  
**Throughout Maine**

April 12, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Health & Human Services Committee, my name is Alison Webb, and I am a resident of Portland. I'm a public health professional, a recovery ally and an affected family member. I am here today to testify in favor of LD 488, *A Resolve to Expand Recovery Community Centers Throughout Maine*.

Brand new research published in 2020 shows that recovery community centers are an important and evidence-based recovery support service, especially for people in early recovery.<sup>1</sup> Recovery community centers are utilized mostly by people few resources, in recovery from alcohol use disorder or opioid use disorder. They play a unique role in helping people in early recovery gain "recovery capital," which in turn improves their quality of life. This means recovery community centers link people to the things they need the most - true connection with peers in recovery, safe housing, and employment and volunteer opportunities - so they can work on getting well and leading the lives they want.

Health care providers, social service agencies, clergy, and probation officers are always looking for ways to support people in early recovery, and they refer people to recovery community centers, which in turn link them to the supports they need.

Maine is on the path to building a robust system of recovery support services, and funding recovery community centers in every county in Maine is one of the next steps in this process. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass.

I am submitting this as written testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [alison.jones.webb@gmail.com](mailto:alison.jones.webb@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Alison Jones Webb

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<sup>1</sup> Kelly, John F., Nilofar Fallah-Sohy, Corrie Vilsaint, Lauren A. Hoffman, Leonard A. Jason, Robert L. Stout, Julie V. Cristello, and Bettina B. Hoepfner. "New kid on the block: An investigation of the physical, operational, personnel, and service characteristics of recovery community centers in the United States." *Journal of substance abuse treatment* 111 (2020): 1-10.