Elizabeth Hagens Kennebunkport LD 178

Over the past year and a half, I have been attending online presentations and seminars on support and positive growth among prisoners who have chosen educational opportunities and who are not the same person they were upon entering prison. I am an anthropologist and not an expert, but I have taught in prisons and have seen the impacts of losing a family member or parent or good friend to incarceration for life. I have witnessed the impacts on families with no hope, especially siblings and children who lose faith in the country and who are unable to understand "justice" with zero chance for forgiveness. They have lost touch with the concept of what is "human" (making mistakes) and have become cynical about the whole justice system as a for-profit. The anger and inability to do anything will set the stage for more criminality. Please, please support this Act.