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LD 178

Greetings members of the committee. I am writing to urge your consideration and support of LD 178. By now, in 2023, we have gathered enough research, testimony and evidence that incarceration creates undue additional trauma to individuals who have erred. Allowing non-violent offenders to reintegrate into the community provides a non-traumatizing environment for individuals to continue their rehabilitation while re-building their life as a productive, taxpaying citizen. While this option lowers the burden on the taxpayers, it is not only an economic decision that we consider, it is a humanitarian one. Offering hope and belief in the community support and in the individual's ability and desire to rehabilitate and learning through a parole program allows people the choice to make a change in their life. As a mother and a teacher, I have seen many individuals mistakes's nearly disrupt their life; offering an option to restore and move in a new direction has made ALL the difference.