

To: Senator Beebe-Center and Honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

Re: Testimony on behalf of LD 178

March 13th, 2023

My name is Tamara Bullock and I have been incarcerated for 15 months at Maine correctional center, but I was recently transferred to Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center. I was sentenced to 8 years, with a suspended portion of my sentence. Personally, the time away from my family has been extremely difficult for me. I have three beautiful little girls at home who are living with my family. They miss me terribly and I miss them with my entire heart. I needed this time away to work on myself and to heal. I missed out on a lot of important times thus far, but am happy that I will be able to see them again. While I have been incarcerated, I have participated in substance abuse classes and other programs that will help prepare me to enter the community once again.

I am one of the many people who strongly believe that people deserve second chances. We make mistakes as humans but have the ability to redeem ourselves. MDOC provides opportunities for people to grow into contributing members of society once again. I often wonder what the purpose of rehabilitation is, without reentry into society.

I write this testimony to support LD 178 wholeheartedly. I believe that Maine has the power to give deserving people a chance to contribute to Maine once again. Passing LD 178 would support reentry and reintegration while saving taxpayers millions of dollars that are spent on incarceration alone.

Respectfully, Tamara Bullock