

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

Re: Testimony on behalf of LD 178

March 13th, 2023

My name is Karen Moon and I am currently a resident at Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center. During my spent at SMWRC, I have participated in many meaningful programs, am taking college classes, and learning to heal from past trauma.

I am writing to show my support for LD 178. I believe that people deserve a second chance once rehabilitated. Reentry and reintegration can move Maine in a new direction. We can save costs associated with recidivism while reconnecting Maine families. Evidence-based research demonstrates that restorative justice does work. We as Mainers are people who care about one another and have the ability to forgive those who have once caused harm. Second chances should be earned and LD 178 would be a positive addition to the Maine justice system.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this testimony.

Respectfully, Karen Moon