

Se Mi Anderson
Windham
LD 178

To: Senator Beebe-Center and Members of The Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

Re: Testimony on behalf of LD 178

March 12th, 2023

My name is Se Mi Anderson, I am a United States Marine Corps Veteran currently incarcerated at Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center. I am writing this personal testimony in favor of LD 178. I am currently serving my first prison sentence and am hopeful to be released in the next four months on SCCP. I am incarcerated as a result of drug trafficking in the state of Maine, a mistake that many women around me have made. With that mistake, I was able to gain my life back. I gained sobriety, education, and Substance Use Treatment. I have taken advantage of every opportunity that has been offered and feel that I will be able to use what I have learned to give back to my community once released. A community that I once damaged.

Many of us are not so different from one another; we have experienced trauma or have gone through hardships that may have led us to make mistakes in life. Community support is very important to me and is a building block for connection. I believe granting LD 178 can help restorative justice programs repair damage that has impacted our justice system for many years. Allowing the chance for incarcerated individuals to earn the right to reentry and reintegration would be a great place to start.

I believe that LD 178 can allow incarcerated individuals to apply their improved way of life, education, and vocational skills to Maine's communities. Change is possible and it can be done in unity. A quote that I find meaningful is "We cannot become what we want by remaining what we are" by Max Depree.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Semper Fidelis, Se Mi Anderson