

Nicholas Lapham
St. George
LD 178

11 March 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Nicholas Lapham and I am a resident of St. George, ME. I have been co-facilitating men's circles inside Maine State Prison since 2020 under the auspices of Jericho Circle Project which has been conducting men's circles in multiple states for the last 20 years.

I am writing to you today to show my absolute support for LD 178 and the effort to re-establish parole in Maine.

I support this bill because I have witnessed men who have transformed themselves during their incarceration, and believe that some -- certainly not all -- men have committed themselves to repairing the harm they have caused and to becoming contributing citizens of the communities to which they seek to belong to outside prison upon their release.

I further support this bill because I believe there are significant economic and social benefits that far outweigh the costs of incarceration for incarcerated persons deemed by the appropriate members of the state to be worthy of parole.

Thank you for your work and for considering my opinion. I hope I can count on your support for LD 178.