

Raphael Soifer
Waterville
LD 178

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

My name is Raphael Soifer and I am a resident of Waterville, where I work as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Colby College.

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

As an researcher specializing in community-based artistic practices, and a long-time facilitator of theatre education programs in prisons throughout Brazil and the United States, I have seen firsthand the how increased access to educational resources can support incarcerated persons in transforming their lives. The important work being done here in Maine both by employees of the Department of Corrections, as well as outside volunteers shows how incarcerated individuals can turn their lives around and contribute to local communities. I believe that the people of Maine would be best served by reintroducing parole so as to allow incarcerated people the opportunity to rejoin and give back to their communities.