

Dear Esteemed Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

As restaurants operating in Maine, we are writing to urge you to support LD 178, *An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community*. We know firsthand the struggles our industry is facing with labor shortages, and bringing back parole would alleviate these shortages because many returning citizens find employment in the restaurant industry.

Bringing back parole will be economically beneficial to Maine as well as to our industry. At a cost of \$78,000 per person per year, incarceration is a misuse of taxpayer money for those people who have taken accountability for the harm they caused, completed appropriate programming, rehabilitated themselves, and pose no risk to society. We need them back in our communities as family members and taxpayers. It makes no economic sense to keep people locked up, at enormous expense, who could be working and contributing to the Maine economy while supporting their families.

Please vote to approve LD 178.

Signed,

Gabriela Acero

Madeline Backman

Hanna O'Meara

Nathan Luce

Heidi Powell

Annmarie Kordish

Cecily Upton

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Jason LaVerdiere

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Jennifer Wilson

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Ross Florance

Derek Richard

Andrew Kaplan

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Andrew Steele Hays

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Ben Jackson

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