

LD 178

"An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community"

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, my name is Shaun Donnelly, and I'm a resident of Arundel

I am writing today in strong support of LD 178. Not only do I feel that it is the right thing to do by incarcerated Mainers who have demonstrated meaningful progress, but these are also people who are desperately needed at home in their communities. Small businesses in the towns around me, like many other places in Maine, have been struggling for years to hire workers. Most businesses in Kennebunkport would open for longer hours if they could find the staff to do so, substantially increasing the amount of economic activity each summer.

It makes no logical sense for our state to spend millions of dollars continuing to lock up folks who a panel of experts would otherwise determine to be worthy of supervised release. The sooner we reintegrate these Mainers, the more likely their lives are to improve and be able to positively impact their communities. Additionally, the possibility of an earlier release will offer hope to imprisoned Mainers, incentivizing them to take more positive steps that will prepare them for rejoining society.

Maine is no safer today than when it did away with parole in 1976, and we are desperately in need of more Mainers to do their part and move our state forward. Thank you for all your work on this issue, and I hope that you will vote ought to pass on LD 178.

Shaun Donnelly
Arundel
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