



MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

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Statement in Opposition to L.D. 178, An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community Submitted by Chief Charles Rumsey March 16, 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Charles Rumsey, and I am the Chief of the Cumberland Police Department. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in Opposition to LD 178.

The Mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

According to the bill summary,

This bill would support an individual's reentry and reintegration into the community.

We are opposed to LD 178 for two main reasons.

First, the bill was a concept draft until it was made public close to the public hearing. Our Association works as a team to determine when and how we will weigh in on a bill. We all make time for this because we know how important the legislative process, but we cannot make an educated decision and vote on bills in concept draft form.

Second, after reviewing the language of the bill, we are concerned that the bill does not go far enough to protect victims. We understand the proponents' reasons for wanting to reestablish parole, but we feel that the current sentencing structures and good time laws already provide the relief that they seek. The existing structures strike the balance between unnecessarily punitive sentences and victim/survivor peace of mind.

For these reasons, we hope that you will vote in opposition to LD 178. And, on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, we want to thank you for your work on this Committee.