

Arthur Bush
Warren
LD 178

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

My name is Arthur G. Bush number 79287, and I'm writing in support of LD 178.

I would like to thank all parties that have worked very hard on this bill, not just for me, but for all incarcerated Maine prisoners.

I understand that parole is not something handed out to anyone who asks, but something that is given to those that work hard and deserve a chance at early release into society. While I have been in prison, I finished a substance abuse class, and then volunteered to take it again. I also took a 16 week challenge class that dealt with things from substance abuse to criminal thinking and positive thinking. I also completed several other programs to help with my personal growth and positive ways of life and I have been taking classes for my Hi-SET and graduated all classes except math. Soon I'll have that done and I'll have my Hi-SET also, plus I have finished several positive classes on the tablet.

I am committed to doing good and positive things in the future. When I'm released, I plan on going to mental health and substance abuse classes and meetings and I aim to stay clean. I know doing drugs has not only hurt my life but has impacted all those around me and my victim. I know I hurt her and her family and I have felt guilty and sorry since the day I committed my crime. Drugs turned me into a monster that assaulted her and robbed her place of work. To me it was the worst thing I've ever done and I'll never forget the pain I caused her. Drugs have taken everything from me, all possessions and all my family. and now I plan on climbing out of the hole and staying clean. Not just for me, but for my Victim and my family too.