

Theodore Harris
Warren
LD 178

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

My name is Theodore Harris and I'm writing in support of the parole bill LD 178.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the committee for working tirelessly on this parole bill. Parole would mean a lot of things to a lot of people, but as for me it would be a chance for me to show my victim, their family, and loved ones, and my family, loved ones, and community how far I've come in my rehabilitation. I understand how that means much more than simply continuing my education and programming, although these play a small part.

For the past six and a half years, I have successfully completed various programs and I'm pursuing a college degree in biblical studies. Thus, along the way, I have become a certified recovery coach and received training on how to peer facilitate Dr. Robin Casarjian's houses of healing program to other prisoners throughout Maine State Prison. This more important work was and continues to be done under the mentorship and life coaching of another rehabilitated MSP resident, a true friend of mine, by the name of Ephraim 'E' Bennett. Ephraim E. Bennett is well known throughout the entire Maine Department of Corrections for his impactful contributions inside and outside of these walls.

If granted parole, I would go out into the greater communities of Maine, using the same tools I was given in my own personal process of change, and be instrumental in changing the lives of countless children, at risk youth / young adults, and others of any age. with permission from their parents, I would be of great help to anyone needing peer support, mentorship, and life coaching in the following areas but not limited to: 1. substance abuse, 2. sexual abuse, 3. domestic abuse, 4. advocacy, 5. preventing anyone from coming to places such as this, and 6. preventing gang membership, etc.

These are some of my goals, and the journey toward these goals has already begun. Thank you for your time and attention. God bless and take care.