

Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



Peter M. Lehman, PhD

20 Lawrence Ave.
Thomaston, Maine 04861
(207) 542-1496
Peter@GrowInME.com

Testimony in support of LD 566 to the Committee on Health and Human Services March 27, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Peter Lehman and I live in Thomaston. I am a formerly incarcerated citizen and a person in long-term recovery.* I am testifying in favor of LD 566 on behalf of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition whose goal is to promote restorative practices in order to increase public safety and the health of our community.

Almost all of the people we work with, men and women, have been the victims of abuse and especially sexual abuse. This is generally related to or connected to their own offending and abuse.

MECASA's sexual assault prevention and response service workers are heroes on the front lines in trying to address and break this tragic intergenerational cycle.

We applaud their work and strongly urge you to support them.

Please unanimously vote Ought to Pass on LD 566.

* In the interest of honesty and disclosure, a personal background statement is available on request.