



Restorative Justice Project Maine

26 March 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Jay Davis, I live in Belfast and I write in support of LD 1301 on behalf of The Restorative Justice Project Maine.

RJP Maine believes that a priority of incarceration must be preparing an inmate for release in the best condition possible. Our work with the Maine Coastal Regional Re-entry Center in Belfast has given us important insights into best practices aimed at achieving that. LD 1301 includes several initiatives that contribute to the low recidivism rate of those leaving MCRRC.

I believe the center employs a staff person who fits the description of a transition coordinator; so should every jail. Residents — that's what they're called at MCRRC — should be eligible to attend funerals of family members if they have demonstrated that they can do so safely and obediently. The re-entry center has a small lending library, as all jails should, and residents have access to learning programs as well.

Creation of a fund at the commissary for indigent residents is a noble idea that should be adopted throughout the system.,

Slowly, achingly sometimes, the corrections system is becoming more humane and effective. LD 1301 is a logical step in that direction, and RJPM urges your support.

Thank you.

Jay Davis
Belfast
For Restorative Justice Project Maine

Restorative Justice Project

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LD 1301

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