

April 10th 2023

Senator Anne Carney
Representative Matt Moonen
Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station, Room 438
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD1449 – An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Violation of Conditions of Release

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and Members of the Judiciary Committee

I would like to tell you I do NOT support LD 1449.

As the law currently stands if you are on bail for a felony, it is not necessarily a felony violation of your bail if you commit another crime. It depends on a two-prong test. Many offenders are arrested for a class C felony only in domestic violence crimes where they contact their victim or family member or witness. These must continue to be enforced.

When a person on bail for a felony DV crime commits say an OUI or OAS or another misdemeanor crime, they are only also charged with a misdemeanor VCR. I think taking away the felony charge is a mistake which will enable more criminal defendants to skirt the no contact clause of their bail concerning victims. We need to continue to protect victims of all crime, but specifically DV's, sex abuse and other family type crimes.

Continuing to enforce these felony level offenses is an important aspect of the bail code.

Please do not allow these changes to pass. Thank you.

Christian J. Behr
Winthrop, Maine