

Sarah Johnson  
Sanford  
LD 1633

Testimony of Sarah Johnson  
IN SUPPORT OF LD 1633

An Act to Establish a Community-based Reentry Program in All Department of Corrections Facilities

Senator Beebe-Center, Representatives Geiger, Doudera, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Madigan, Matlack, Shagoury, Salisbury, and m\Honorable Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Sarah Johnson. I am a Software Support Specialist and I live in Sanford. I am a former volunteer instructor at the York County Jail (15 years) and the Women's Center at the Maine Correctional Center and Southern Maine Reentry Center (4 years). I recently worked in the education department at the Western New Mexico Correctional Facility in Grants, NM for 4 years.

I am writing to ask for your support of LD1633 which will help provide all individuals the structured support and care needed for successful reentry. These programs would assist with the major challenges of reentry, including finding safe and affordable housing, finding and maintaining employment, health care, substance use and mental health services, parenting assistance and general transitional services. Reducing recidivism in Maine will have a positive effect on all citizens and communities.

LD 1633 defines reentry programs based on partnerships of Corrections and Community programs that are evidence based with demonstrable successful outcomes.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill, and for all your dedicated work.

Sarah Johnson