

Erik Lamoreau
Caribou
LD 1596

My name is Erik Lamoreau and I am a citizen of Caribou. I am a person in long term recovery for over 9 years. I am testify today in the support of the creation of the Court Treatment Program LD 1596 in Aroostook County.

We have a crisis on our hands. Our jail is full! Over full! as of this morning over 145 individuals are in Aroostook county custody. More than 90% of those individuals are on pretrial charges and many of them on drug related issues. Data shows that many are in dire need of treatment for Substance Use Disorder. Unfortunately, Many will not receive it as they will remain under residency of the state until they are sentenced. It is time to create a Treatment Court option in Aroostook County. To my knowledge we are the last county in Maine not to have a treatment court option. Aroostook County has many challenges, daily I hear people say there is no workforce, that we are paying too much to keep people in jail, I hear guards at Aroostook County Jail say they are working 60-70 hours a week. Treatment Court will take the pressure off of our jail correction staff, our overfull legal caseloads, help support our workforce challenges, our counties budget, and most importantly provide a treatment option for our people with Substance use disorder. It is time to act on a solution driven, proven evidence based model of treatment for our addicted citizens. Please support LD 1596, Aroostook County addicts deserve the same treatment options as the rest of the state.