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United Way  
of Southern Maine



Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Devon Stockmayer. I am the Advocacy Supervisor at Preble Street in Portland. I am writing to ask for your support in the passage of LD1633: An Act to Establish a Community-Based Reentry Program in all Department of Corrections Facilities.

Maine's recidivism rate has been on the rise in recent years. We cannot accept this as the standard. A rising or high recidivism rate only illuminates the glaring lack of wraparound support for individuals being released from correctional facilities. In Maine, nearly 1/3 of individuals released from prison return within three years.

LD1633 is innovative in its approach to reentry services because it establishes a program of peer-support, which can be tailored to each person's situation. In the challenging and vulnerable moment of re-entry, it is imperative that a person is offered a comprehensive safety net. In relying on a peer-run model in collaboration with the Department of Corrections (DOC), this program will draw meaningfully on shared lived experiences of incarcerated individuals, who may support each other in their return to lives beyond bars.

With backing from the DOC, the reentry program proposed in the bill could have a transformative impact on the lives of individuals leaving prison across the state. No matter the level of support, reentry is challenging. Yet LD1633 will ensure that we have done our part as a state to offer these individuals support and meaningful stepping stones to reintegrating into society.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Devon Stockmayer

