



## Restorative Justice Project Maine

6 May 2023

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice,

My name is Dr. Tim Hughes, and, as a member of the Board of The Restorative Justice Project Maine, as a concerned citizen, and as a retired Maine family physician, I am writing in support of LD 1863, **“An Act to Facilitate the Provision of Medically Appropriate Levels of Care for Clients of Correctional Facilities.”**

The Maine State Prison population is aging; the percentage of incarcerated people over 55 years of age is expected to rise to one third of the total by 2030. Very few people in this age cohort commit new crimes. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity at the end of their lives, and families deserve the opportunity to spend time with their loved one in his or her final days.

Incarcerating the sick and elderly costs us taxpayers way too much and makes no sense, since these people pose little threat to public safety; locking up the sick and elderly does not make us safer, and causes harm.

Please vote in support of LD 1863.

Thank you, sincerely,

Tim Hughes M.D.

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Restorative Justice Project Maine  
LD 1863

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