

Sarah Johnson
Sanford
LD 550

Testimony of Sarah Johnson

IN SUPPORT OF LD 550

An Act to Increase Correctional Officer Salary and Benefits

Representatives Lanigan, Cyrway, Fredericks, Woodsome, Senators Harrington,
Hickman and 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 in the Maine Correctional System (17 years) and I recently worked in the education department at the Western New Mexico Correctional Facility in Grants, NM for 4 years.

I am writing in support of LD 1863 which is critical to aiding efforts to recruit and retain correctional officers. There is a nationwide crisis in correctional staffing which has so many negative ramifications. The safety and security of all staff and residents is of course of highest importance. Adequate and experienced staff who are recognized and appreciated also contribute to successful programming, rehabilitation and reentry into our communities.

Please consider the overall benefits to more competitive compensation for correctional officers.

Thank you
Sarah Johnson