

# Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



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## **Testimony in Support of LD 1977 and Opposition to LD 1973 to the Committee on the Judiciary**

October 17, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Peter Lehman and I live in Thomaston. I am a formerly incarcerated citizen and a person in long-term recovery.\* I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition whose goal is to promote restorative practices in order to increase public safety and the health of our community.

We advocate for a particularly vulnerable population constantly encountering discrimination and stigma. Assaults on privacy such as contained in LD 1973 have an especially profound effect on the health and welfare of this population.

LD 1973, written by industry lobbyists, seeks to continue and expand current practices that endanger this population by ratifying and expanding stereotypes and stigma.

LD 1977, in contrast, provides important protections that currently do not exist in Maine or federal law.

We urge you to support LD 1977 and defeat LD 1973.

Thank you for your generous attention.

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\* In the interest of honesty and disclosure, a personal background statement is available on request.