

# Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



Wednesday, Dec 27, 2023

Greetings Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and Honorable Members of the Criminal Justice Committee and Public Safety Committee

My name is Jan Collins, I am assistant director of Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition. I am here to support **L.D. 931 An Act to Expand the State's Workforce by Supporting the Transition from Incarceration to Employment**

MPAC's mission is to support Maine's incarcerated citizens, their families, and friends, in their struggle with Maine's criminal justice system. Our purpose is to reduce Maine's use of incarceration by creating a system that is ethical, humane, and restorative in nature.

There is no doubt that the current reentry program is failing and that new and innovative measures are needed. Here is the data provided by the Maine Department of Corrections

From adult community corrections

**The number of individuals on probation in the last 10 years who have passed away while on probation is 658**

2023 YTD May?	21
2022	85
2021	76
2020	68
2019	59
2018	63
2017	77
2016	67
2015	64
2014	54
5/22/13-12/31/13	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>658</b>

V/r

Jenna Heald  
Maine Department of Corrections

The cost of these reentry deaths are borne, not by those who died but by their families. Almost half of all inmates are parents.

The failure of our current program extends to the larger community. In April of this year, our first mass murder occurred when a recently released individual killed his parents, two of their friends and wounded three others three days after he came home.

Not long after, a young man who had been released from Long Creek randomly shot a husband and wife while their children watched.

In December, an individual released just days before had a standoff with police in Thomaston.

Prison is a traumatic environment, filled with people who have experienced trauma throughout their lives. We should not be surprised when so many fail to Successfully reenter society. The real surprise is that anyone succeeds. Those who do succeed have a strong support network on the outside.

Everyone needs that support. This bill is essential.

Thank-you for your support.

With appreciation,

Jan M. Collins

*Assistant Director  
Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition*

*BOV Franklin County Jail*

*PO Box 360, E. Wilton, ME 04234  
207.578.8419*

Jan Collins  
East Wilton  
LD 931

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