

Sarah Johnson
Sanford
LD 2218

3/14/24

Testimony of Sarah Johnson in support of LD 2218, An Act to Remove the Age-related Statutory Prerequisite for Sealing Criminal History Record Information Before the Committee on Judiciary, March 15, 2024

Honorable Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Members of the Committee,
My name is Sarah Johnson, I live in Sanford and I am writing in support of LD 2218, An Act to Remove the Age-related Statutory Prerequisite for Sealing Criminal History Record Information.

Every person should have the right to have their criminal history records sealed, regardless of age.

The challenges of reentry, obtaining and maintaining employment, housing, and other needs are difficult. Public access to criminal records is like convicting a person multiple times. These records may be used to discriminate against housing, employment, loans and other services. There are incidents in all of our pasts that we would like to be shielded from public view. People re-entering society after incarceration have earned the right to a clean slate and new opportunities in ways most of us cannot imagine. If we believe in second chances, then how can we force people to carry the burden of public access to these records?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson
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