

Sarah Johnson
Sanford
LD 2236

Testimony of Sarah Johnson in support of LD 2236, An Act to Expand the List of Crimes Eligible for a Post-judgment Motion to Seal Criminal History Record Information to Include Convictions for Possession and Cultivation of Marijuana
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 2236, An Act to Expand the List of Crimes Eligible for a Post-judgment Motion to Seal Criminal History Record Information to Include Convictions for Possession and Cultivation of Marijuana

Every person should have the right to have their criminal history records sealed, as these records block equitable access to almost everything needed to be a successful contributing community member and citizen.

The challenges of reentry are already unfair, with little support during the process. Public access to criminal records is like convicting a person over and over again, during reentry and well into the future. 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 who have completed sentences of 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
Sanford Maine