

janet drew
york
LD 45

Testimony in opposition to LD 45
to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
January 27, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the
Committee:

My name is Janet Drew. I'm a retired RN, and I live in York.

I ask that you oppose An Act Allowing the Department of Corrections to Offset Some
of the Costs of Technology Provided to Residents of Correctional Facilities because:

1. The cost of this program will be borne by the innocent families (parents, children,
siblings, grandparents etc...) risking further intergenerational harm from incarceration
2. Increasingly, the medical community is recognizing that there are health risks, not
only associated with social isolation, but also with the overuse of wireless technology.
These risks to mental health can increase unsafe conditions inside.

Possibly, a solution to balancing both financial costs and the medical risks would be
to establish some time limits on tech use, while increasing programming & healthful
social alternatives to it.

The MDOC mission is

“Making our Communities Safer by Reducing Harm through Supportive Intervention,
Empowering Change, & Restoring Lives”

Yet, the MDOC sabotages its own mission, charging residents for programs, (using
the Resident Benefit Fund's commissary markups & other fees to fund programs.

I oppose the MDOC turning effective programs into profit centers.

Thank you