

Claire Horne
Appleton
LD 45

Testimony in Opposition to LD 45: An Act Allowing the Department of Corrections to Offset Some of the Costs of Technology Provided to Residents of Correctional Facilities

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Tavis Hasenfus, and esteemed members of the Joint Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Claire Horne and I'm a resident of Appleton, Maine. I am writing in opposition to LD 45, an act that will make it harder for residents at corrections facilities to access technology. I believe we should be encouraging residents of correctional facilities to be informed about what's going on in the world, engaged in their communities, and connected to loved ones on the outside. Limiting access to technology will, instead, cut residents off from the world, moreso than they already are. This act would allow corrections facilities to charge residents for using technology to access educational and vocational programs, including remote work. I think we should be encouraging residents to take part in educational and vocational programs, not putting financial barriers in the way. Charging a fee to use technology for these kinds of important programs creates a sort of penalty for pursuing self-betterment. I think we should be encouraging residents to participate in learning and developing skills that interest them online.

I hope you will agree and oppose LD 45 so that residents at corrections facilities can develop important skills remotely and stay connected online without a prohibitive paywall.

Sincerely,
Claire Horne
Appleton, ME