

Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



January 27, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

My name is Jan Collins, I am Assistant Director of Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition (MPAC) an organization committed to ethical, positive, and humane changes in Maine's prison system.

I am here in support of **LD 97 An Act to Facilitate the Improvement of Credit Scores for Residents of Department of Corrections Facilities.**

It is with great pleasure that MPAC supports this innovative and thoughtful bill.

When a resident is reentering the community after a stay in prison, they are likely to be without housing, employment, and transportation. Most residents I talk with who are contemplating release are filled with anxiety, not sure how they will survive, or what steps are necessary to achieve success.

Establishing a credit history along with setting up a bank account and purchasing a phone are all essential ingredients to attaining the basics for success.

My appreciation goes to the Maine Department of Corrections for finding a creative solution to this problem and to Representative Sayre for sponsoring and shepherding this bill.

Please give it your unanimous support.

Jan M. Collins

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