

Testimony in support of LD 179
the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
February 3, 2025

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

My name is Sarah Johnson and I am a resident of Sanford.

I am writing in support of LD 179, An Act to Amend the Maine Bail Code to Eliminate the Class E Crime of Violation of Condition of Release.

This legislation makes both social and economic sense.

On a human level, adding another charge without process or investigation of circumstances harms everyone involved. It could have unintended consequences reaching as far as losing a job or housing, and disrupt a family's security.

The fiscal note alone states an almost balanced impact on loss and gain of funds. Please take particular notice that the 'loss' is solely of additional fines that would negatively impact the individual and their family.

This is a bill that shows our community priorities by not further taxing those who are least able to pay the cost and ramifications, and reviewing what low level charges we should be doing away with.

Please support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson
Sanford, Maine.