

February 3, 2025

Honorable Senator Beebe-Center, Senate chair  
Honorable Hasenfus, House chair  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04330

**RE: Testimony in Opposition of LD 179 *An Act to Amend the Maine Bail Code to Eliminate the Class E Crime of Violation of Condition of Release***

Senator Beebe-Center. Representative Hasenfus and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:

My name is Jessica Laliberte and I reside in the city of Waterville. I come from a large police family, my late father spent half his life in service to his community and later county, and I am the proudest aunt of a current law enforcement officer. I come from a large police family. My late father spent half his life in service to his community and later to the county, and I am the proudest aunt of a current law enforcement officer. I stand in strong opposition to ***LD 179, An Act to Amend the Maine Bail Code to Eliminate the Class E Crime of Violation of Condition of Release.***

Violation of the condition of release is a critical tool law enforcement uses to protect victims of crime. Stripping police of this authority puts not only victims at risk but the public at large. This is yet another attempt to empower those who commit devious acts and absolve perpetrators of responsibility and accountability.

This has been tried in other states, namely California, and it has not worked out well. This bill reflects left-coast, progressive ideology. "Catch and release" is driving up crime and criminal acts, making our state less safe. In my view, this is largely due to the bail reform passed by previous legislatures.

If this proposal passes, victims of crime will have no protection. Law enforcement officers will be handcuffed and prevented from doing their job. When something awful happens, it will be the police who are criticized for not doing more. However, in reality, it will be the supporters of this legislation who will have blood on their hands. Supporting this proposal is a vote for criminal behavior and sends a message to victims that their safety does not matter. Passage of LD 179 would be detrimental to public safety. Enforcement of conditions of release is critical for police to keep their communities—and more importantly, victims—safe.

I urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD 179.

Respectfully,



Jessica L Laliberte  
Waterville



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LD 179

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