

I think the vast majority of people tend to blame the police or the DAs office for the failures in the judicial system; generally bc that's who is the closest point of access is to that system. In reality, not to get overly political, this is a "top down" problem. The crime in our country has increasingly been a problem everywhere. I am not tearing into statistics, but I think most people can say they feel their children are growing up in a less safe world than they did. The collision of crime, mental health disorders, and an increasingly poorly functioning / engaged government has led us here. I used to think the biggest problem was lengthy legislative bills that no one read and simply passed along party lines. The bigger issue is actually elected officials putting forth poorly thought out, incomplete, or "feel good" legislation that they, or sometimes even constituents, do not think far enough ahead about to understand the ramifications for the citizenry or law enforcement.

LD179 is one of those pieces of legislation. Imagine being a homeowner who has been burglarized and seeing the suspect, who had bail to not be within 200 feet of you, walking past your house and the police telling you, "Ok. We will let the DA's office know and see if they will revoke his/her bail". Or you go to the local eatery for dinner and sitting at the bar doing shots is the guy/girl who killed your child in an OUI crash last month. You call the police, knowing they have bail to not consume alcohol...sorry for your loss, but it's nothing we can do other than call the DA's office looking for a motion to revoke. (The police would not even be able to stop them from committing the violation!) Let's not dismiss the fact that multiple judges and DA's, seemingly with the blessing of those in State level government, already place people on multiple sets of bail, never considering motions to revoke when people are regularly terrorizing their community. Lastly, consider you are a parent whose child was sexually assaulted. Your child works at Hannaford as a cashier. The suspect has conditions not to repeatedly go to their workplace, but everyday they find a reason to be there. As long as they don't have direct contact...no arrestable violation.

There is already an issue in the courts, holding people accountable. Eliminating bail violations means a reduction at the law enforcement level to enforce criminals from further violating victims and community safety. This bill is a slap in the face to victims and law enforcement. This is poorly thought out and horrible for Maine taxpayers. I would implore you to give no consideration to passing this.

Brad Gallant
Rumford
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