

## LD 179 - An Act to Amend the Maine Bail Code to Eliminate the Class E Crime of Violation of Condition of Release

I am here to voice my opinion in response to the elimination of the VCR Class E crime statute. I have been a Police Officer for seven years now, and thought it was an everyday occurrence to run into people who have violated their bail conditions. I have always done my job, and that is to take them into custody. Everyone has consequences for their wrong doings. Now, that I have been on the job, interacted with victims and would personally be affected by this change. I can say that I am not pleased with wanting to get rid of the misdemeanor charge. Just because it is a misdemeanor and people don't believe it has any weight, it sure does speak volumes.

I never thought I would be in a situation where I was vulnerable and hurt until recently. Being a Domestic Violence victim, I have been put through the ringer in my personal life with anxiety, therapy sessions and changing where I go. Something I thought as a Police Officer I would never have to do. I am a name listed on conditions, and if that were to be violated it would be a class E crime. If this statute is amended for the misdemeanor my safety would feel at risk and I would feel vulnerable everywhere I went. I have a lot of strength for someone in my field, but as my family in blue know, you like to put walls down when you are home. I would not feel that way if this is gone.

This act to amend is outrageous and shows that we are willing to let anything slide. I would like to believe that my brothers and sisters in blue can agree and along with the victims whose names are listed in those conditions.

Thank you for your time.