



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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February 26, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF
MARY-ANNE LAMARRE
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

In OPPOSITION to

**LD 246 – An Act to Establish the Option of Sentencing
Alternatives for Primary Caregivers**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing on Judiciary. My name is Mary-Anne LaMarre, and I am privileged to represent the Maine Sheriffs Association as their Executive Director.

Maine sheriffs convened to discuss L.D. 246 - An Act to Establish the Option of Sentencing Alternatives for Primary Caregivers. The Maine Sheriffs Association's legislative policy committee unanimously voted to oppose this bill.

Maine sheriffs collectively indicated that they have serious concerns about this bill. Sheriffs understood the intent behind the bill, however, they did not waiver from their opposition.

First, the courts already have multiple options when sentencing perpetrators for their crimes. The perpetrator/caregiver made the decision to commit the crime, knowing they would face sanctions if caught. If we provide lenient sentencing for caregivers, the argument could be made that caregivers could knowingly commit a crime with the expectation that they would be allowed an alternate sentence and continue caring for the person they're responsible for.

Alternately, what would prohibit a person in custody from claiming they're a caregiver as an excuse for an alternate sentence? For example, if there is a child, elderly person or person with mental or physical disabilities in the home of the perpetrator, this bill would potentially allow that person the leeway to claim they're a caretaker, whether they have any responsibilities providing care for another person in their household.

To summarize, perpetrators could knowingly commit a crime with the expectation of an alternate sentence or, a perpetrator of a crime may allege they're a caregiver to take advantage of this alternative sentencing. Maine Sheriffs urge you to remember the victim of the crime was not provided an alternative when the crime was committed. Please vote ought not to pass L.D. 246.

Thank you for your consideration.