

**Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 340  
to the Committee on Judiciary**

March 3, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Committee:

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

I am writing neither for nor against LD 340, An Act Regarding Speedy Trials. I do feel lack of speedy trials is an issue harming many Maine families and in need of legislative protection.

When a person is charged and incarcerated in jail, they may almost immediately lose employment, housing, property, have medical care interrupted or endure any number of other traumas. Their family will also experience these losses and they may compound until final disposition. LD340 defines possible wait times from 6 to 24 months, with many exceptions allowing that to be extended. Each day is a loss on many levels for someone not convicted of anything, and a trauma and hardship on their family.

Can Committee members visit county jails and speak with people who have been waiting unreasonable amounts of time to find out what the reasons are? In the Hancock county jail you may speak to a veteran who has been at the jail for over a year, has had charges reduced but not unaffordable bail, and will not take a plea deal because he deserves his day in court. He is one of many Mainers in our jails who have lost everything waiting for trial.

I support the excellent intentions of this bill, to ensure each Mainers right to a speedy trial. I understand that 'speedy' is up for interpretation, but the deadlines and extensive exceptions to extend them in this bill are beyond what we should allow.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson  
Sanford, Maine.