

**Testimony in support of LD 527**  
**the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**  
March 15, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Committee:

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

I am writing in support of LD 527, An Act to Establish Bail Officers to Administer the Maine Bail Code.

I support LD 527 as it will establish some equity of implementation of the bail system.

Bail reform is needed on many levels. The system is meant to help people who have not been convicted of anything keep their lives intact as much as possible during the adjudication of their case. However, the system is rife with racial and economic disparities. As noted by the [ACLU of Maine](#), “A person’s ability or inability to pay cash bail shouldn’t be used as a method to predict who is guilty.”

LD 527 will improve collaboration between the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and the Chief Judge of the District Court, as well as develop training classes regarding the execution of the bail process. This standardization is a good first step in necessary bail reform.

I hope you will support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson

Sanford, Maine.

<https://www.aclumaine.org/en/maine-cash-bail-reform-victory>