

Testimony in support of LD 533
the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
March 24, 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 533, An Act to Allow Residents of the Department of Corrections to Opt In to Additional Restitution for Their Victims.

The mission statement of the Maine Department of Corrections reads: “Making our communities safer by reducing harm through supportive intervention, empowering change and restoring lives.”

Allowing residents to opt in to an additional victim’s restitution fund is an entirely supportive, empowering and restoring concept. This legislation would offer the opportunity to all who have been impacted by an offense to participate as they are comfortable. This voice of empowerment is a component of self-determination that may have been lacking for everyone involved. LD 533 offers a process of acknowledgement of and accountability for harm, and a path for healing and reconciliation.

I hope you will support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson
Sanford, Maine.