

Testimony in support of LD 931
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 931, An Act to Amend the Law Allowing Incarcerated Pretrial or Presentence Individuals to Be Credited Time for Participation in Voluntary Work Projects in a Jail.

This bill has so many benefits, including reducing the prison and jail population and so the total cost of incarceration. Physical and mental health degrade quickly during the stressful time of pretrial and presentencing. The stress of uncertainty for yourself and your family can erode self worth and motivation. The opportunity to do volunteer work and to be recognized for your efforts with time credited is empowering and motivating. The work may also offer new skills, training and experiences of working on a team. Motivational programs like this foster positive engagement and so will make the environment safer for everyone, including officers and staff. Who among us does not feel better on all levels when we have a sense of purpose?

Legislation should be about public safety, supporting communities and improving the quality of life for individuals and families. LD931 does all that.

I hope you will support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson
Sanford, Maine.