



TESTIMONY OF ALICIA REA, ESQ.
LD 931 – Ought to Pass

**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**

Joint Standing Committee on
Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, greetings. My name is Alicia Rea, and I am a policy fellow for the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine, a statewide organization committed to advancing and preserving civil liberties guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions. On behalf of our members, I urge you to support LD 931.

Under current Maine law, post-conviction inmates receive time credit for voluntary public works projects. This bill expands that time credit to pretrial defendants who are being held while awaiting trial. Given that there is a backlog of pretrial defendants who are often detained for a period of months—which this Legislature is doing good work to try to solve—this is a commonsense expansion of time credit. Offering one day of time credit for every 16 hours volunteered by both post-conviction and pre-trial detainees could help expedite their movement through jails and potentially prevent them from being sent to the Maine State Prison, based on the amount of volunteer time credited.

We urge you to vote ought to pass.