

Testimony in support of LD 822
the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
March 31, 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 822, An Act to End the Collection of Certain Probation Fees.

Yes, please, could we reduce fines, fees and other taxes on those who can least afford to fund our carceral system and stop burdening them with more challenges to successful reentry? The Maine Department of Corrections' Mission Statement is "to make communities safer by reducing harm through supportive intervention, empowering change, and restoring lives, while also promoting the safety and wellbeing of staff and residents". LD822 is a supportive intervention as it is economically empowering to individuals and families impacted by the carceral system. This financial empowerment will help people restore their own lives by gaining stability and opportunity for employment and other community service. This certainly fulfills the mission, and will improve our community wellbeing. I hope you will support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson
Sanford, Maine.