



Maine Chiefs of Police Association
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Statement in opposition to
L.D. 1113, An Act Regarding Fairness in Sentencing for Persons Under 26 Years of Age
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
March 31, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Jason Moen. I am the Chief of the Auburn Police Department, and President of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in opposition to LD 1113.

The mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

As proposed in the sponsor's amendment distributed last week, this legislation prohibits a person from being sentenced for any class of crime and to life without the possibility of supervised community confinement after a period of 15 years if the offender was under 26 years of age at the time of the commission of the crime.

Once a person reaches the age of 18, they are legally considered an adult in Maine and presumed to have the cognitive and emotional maturity necessary to understand the ramifications of committing criminal acts. Once someone reaches adulthood, they should be held accountable for any actions and legal penalties associated with their crimes.

If a defendant who is 24 years of age were given a lighter sentence than a defendant who committed the same crime at age 26, it sends the message that the crime committed by the 24-year-old was less severe. There is no difference as to the impact on the victim. There is no

difference as to the risk they pose to the public. Treating these individuals differently based solely on their age undermines the core principle of justice in that the same crimes should impose similar consequences.

The severity of a crime and the impact on the victim should dictate the sentence, not the perpetrator's age. For these reasons, we strongly oppose the passage of LD 1113 and ask the committee to vote ought not to pass.