

Thazra-Rosie Hylton
South Portland -MPAC
LD 1113

Good Day committee members,

My name is Thazra-Rosie Hylton of Cumberland County. I am writing in support of LD 1113, An Act Regarding Fairness in Sentencing for Persons Under 26 Years of Age. I find it unfair to judge, and subsequently punish, youthful adults by the same standards used for fully mentally developed adults.

I am the mother of three in their 20s and I can still see areas where my young adult children still have lots of growing left to do when it comes to decision-making and impulse control. My eldest is now 27 and truly coming into an age of thoughtfulness, self-awareness, and self-control that his younger self did not possess. My son was convicted of a violent crime in his late teens, actions that he has grown more deeply regretful of and saddened by as he has matured. The man he is now would never react the same way to similar situations because his brain has made it through the dark times that many youthful offenders have suffered through.

I'm just a working class citizen but I've been learning more about the way violent thoughts plague young minds; referred to as the "age crime curve" it notes a "sharp increase in criminal activity in mid-adolescence followed by an equally sharp decline in these rates in early adulthood." That leads me to think that someone who is capable of causing great harm in their youth can grow into someone who is capable of great change..someone who is worthy of a second chance to be part of society outside of prison walls. I hope you take this way of thinking into consideration and pass LD 1113 to help set limits on the amount of incarceration that a youthful offender can be charged with. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Thazra-Rosie Hylton