

Amy Hughes
Kittery
LD 421

Hello,

My name is Amy Hughes. I am a resident of Kittery, Maine and I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of this bill, which removes a significant and unnecessary barrier to successful reentry.

LD 421 repeals laws that allow driver's license suspensions for drug-related offenses—even when no vehicle was involved. These suspensions do not improve public safety. Instead, they make it harder for people returning from incarceration to get back on their feet.

Transportation is critical for reentry. People need a license to access jobs, attend treatment, fulfill probation requirements, and take care of their families—especially in rural areas like much of Maine, where public transit is limited or nonexistent.

Loss of a license increases the risk of recidivism. Research shows that access to employment and stability significantly reduces the chance of reoffending. Punishing people in ways that make it harder to work or comply with court orders undermines their chances of success.

This policy hits low-income people the hardest. When someone can't drive legally, they're often forced to choose between breaking the law or missing work. That cycle helps no one.

Other states have already moved away from these outdated policies, recognizing that keeping people connected to opportunity and accountability makes communities safer.

This bill is about common sense. It's about giving people a fair shot at success, not trapping them in a system that punishes poverty and prolongs punishment.

Please vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 421. Thank you for your time and your service.