



March 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice;

My name is Dr. Arthur C. Jones and I live in Belfast. **I am writing in support of LD 648, “An Act to Expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program.”** I have 36 years of experience in the criminal justice field. I served on Parole Boards in New Jersey and Rhode Island for a total of 20 years. The Supervised Community Confinement Program (SCCP) is similar to parole. Since 2008, I have been involved with the Restorative Justice Project Maine.

I understand the value of this bill, recognizing its potential to uplift morale and offer more offenders a second chance, as well as provide an effective behavioral management tool for the Department of Corrections.

Commissioner Randy Liberty and the Department of Corrections have done a commendable job in launching the SCCP. It has proven to be a successful program. However, we need to give them the tools to expand this program. It will enable more offenders to return to the community safely and become law-abiding, tax-paying citizens.

The benefits of expanding the SCCP include:

- Creating an incentive for incarcerated people to become members of their community.
- Reducing incarceration costs in Maine.
- Allowing individuals to rejoin the workforce, become taxpayers, and financially support their families.
- Acknowledging that individuals committing crimes at a younger age often have incomplete brain development and may lack impulse control, decision-making skills, and/or comprehensive understanding of the consequences of their actions.
- Recognizing the increased potential for rehabilitation and returning contributing individuals to the community.
- Reducing recidivism by easing the transition back into the community after years of incarceration.

Restorative Justice Project

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- Avoiding the current practice of straight release, which releases residents who have spent years in prison with no supports, no housing, no job, and no resources.
- Creating a backdoor hatch for the Governor/DOC to release more offenders in the event of overcrowding.

Restorative Justice Project Maine urges you to support LD 648.

Sincerely,

Arthur C. Jones, Ph.D
Professor, Criminal Justice Consultant
Maine Notary Public
and member,
Legislative Committee, Restorative Justice Project Maine
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Arthur Jones
Restorative Justice Project Maine
LD 648

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