

Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



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Testimony in support of LD 1427 to the Committee on Judiciary

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Peter Lehman and I live in Thomaston. I am a formerly incarcerated citizen and a person in long-term recovery.* I am testifying in support of LD 1427 on behalf of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition, promoting public safety and the health of our communities.

A vitally important and less discussed benefit of criminal prosecution for victims is an **affirmation** that they are not to blame and what the offender did was wrong.

For most, this is the most important result—more important than vengeance or revenge or “paying for their crime.”

These affirmations are critical for healing and moving forward from trauma.

For some, these affirmations have never come.

That’s the reason we support this bill, in hopes that it can promote those affirmations.

Thank you for your attention.

* In the interest of honesty and disclosure, a personal background statement is available on request.