

# Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



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## **Testimony in Opposition to LD 1427 to the Committee on Judiciary**

April 14, 2025

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 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 victims, 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 a reason we might support this bill, in hopes that it can promote those affirmations.

### **On the other hand:**

**Imagine being asked** to account for your whereabouts and actions the third week of March, 18 years ago.

Where would you begin? What year was that? Where were you living and working? What were you driving and what were you doing that week?

Now try to answer the questions about specific times and places.

And, did anyone see you? Is there anyone who can verify your whereabouts and activities?

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

To help show locations and activities, how would you even find credit card receipts, if you used credit cards? Cash receipts would be long gone.

The defense attorney you would need to quickly find and pay for, will call that “exculpatory evidence.” A **lot** of it would have been destroyed in that long period of time.

That’s why it is unfair and unjust to further extend the statute of limitations. Even six years is quite a stretch when you think of the innocent person being confronted with having to defend themselves.

So, in spite of the possible benefits to alleged victims, this bill would not serve justice. We oppose it.

Please defeat LD 1427.

Note: another version of this testimony was erroneously submitted. Please excuse and disregard the other submission.