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LD 648

Testimony of Craig Williams
Founder, People Patch

Collaborator, Photo Patch & Maine Participatory Defense

In Support of: An Act to Expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program

Date: 4/23/2025

To: Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

Chairpersons and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Craig Williams. I am the founder of People Patch, a nonprofit that empowers at-risk and marginalized individuals — including formerly incarcerated people — to reclaim their lives through digital skills, community care, and civic engagement. I also work with Photo Patch and support the Maine Participatory Defense Hub, where we help families navigate the criminal legal system and advocate for better outcomes and systemic change.

I am writing today in strong support of An Act to Expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program (SCCP).

This bill matters deeply to me — not only because of the families I serve, but because I have lived the impacts of incarceration and reentry firsthand. I have seen how reentry programs that prioritize dignity and accountability can help people stabilize, reconnect with loved ones, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Maine has a chance to lead with compassion and common sense. Expanding SCCP will:

Provide low-risk individuals with the opportunity to finish their sentences in a home or community-based setting, where they can work, care for their families, and build the support systems they need to avoid returning to prison.

Reduce the financial and human cost of incarceration. Taxpayers deserve smart investments — and community confinement programs are more cost-effective than keeping people behind bars.

Honor the value of second chances. I've seen people who were written off by the system thrive when given the tools and trust to do so. I've also seen how damaging it is when people are kept locked away even after they've demonstrated growth and readiness to come home.

At People Patch, we work every day with young people and returning citizens who are trying to break cycles of poverty, violence, and incarceration. But we cannot do this alone. We need policies like this one that acknowledge people's capacity to change and offer real pathways back into society.

I urge you to support this bill — not only because it's the right thing to do, but because it's what our communities need to be stronger, and more whole.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to justice.

Sincerely,
Craig Williams