

Testimony in Support of LD 648: An Act to Expand Supervised Community

Confinement Program in Maine

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Santanu Basu of Warren, Maine. I write to you today to express my strong support for **LD 648**, a bill to expand **Supervised Community Confinement Programs (SCCP)** here in Maine. This legislation represents more than a change in policy—it is a reflection of the values expressed in the Department of Corrections’ mission: *“Making our communities safer by reducing harm through supportive intervention, empowering change, and restoring lives.”* At its core, LD 648 is about public safety, justice, efficiency, and human dignity.

During my time incarcerated, I witnessed the capacity for transformation. While not everyone chose the path of change, many individuals expressed deep remorse and undertook a sincere journey of self-improvement through education, mentorship, and personal reflection. Yet despite decades of demonstrated rehabilitation, many remain behind bars with no path to reintegration.

We often speak of being a society that believes in second chances. However, for individuals serving 15 or more years—or facing de facto life sentences—there is little opportunity to demonstrate rehabilitation under current law. Without expanding SCCP, how can the “corrections” in the Department of Corrections truly fulfill its mission?

According to The Sentencing Project, individuals released after decades of incarceration have a recidivism rate of less than **2%**. Many are elderly and pose no threat to public safety, yet they remain confined at great financial cost. Maine taxpayers bear this burden—resources that could otherwise support education, mental health services, and reentry programs. Other states that have reformed similar policies have saved millions while enhancing public safety outcomes.

Furthermore, for families of victims, restorative justice programs—though underutilized—offer a meaningful path to healing. These initiatives foster open dialogue, true accountability, and provide a space for genuine remorse to be heard. They are not a replacement for justice, but a deeper realization of it.

LD 648 is a compassionate, fiscally responsible, and evidence-based step forward. I urge you to support this bill and help build a system that recognizes growth, encourages accountability, and truly embodies the ideals of rehabilitation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Santanu Basu

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