



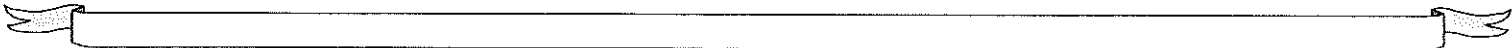
TESTIMONY OF CARL HUNTER

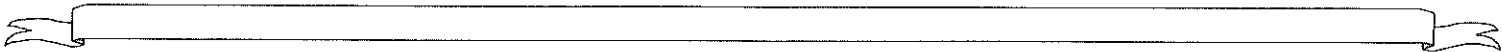
Testimony in Support of LD 648: An Act to Expand Supervised Community Judiciary Committee.

To the Honorable Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Carl Hunter. I write to you to express my strong support for LD 648, an act to expand the supervised community confinement program in Maine.

I was born to teenage parents that could only give what they had, which then was not a lot due to generational failure. Mom worked and went to school and dad was on the run or in Juvu. I always wanted to be with my grandmother Rosemary and was until I lost her to lung and breast cancer. I think I was 8 or 9 years old, which was around the time I was very angry and broken because I was subject to all forms of abuse and I lacked a lot of needs outside of material things. I was drinking and smoking to escape my reality and I got into some mischief due to my constant exposure to criminal thinking and behavior. Which to a child were my mom and a way of survival. I was looking up to all the wrong people out of desperation due to them being the only people there. And the role models to some degree were the providers usually consumed by work and school. I sought attention because I craved for connection, communication, safety but instead dealt with chaos. As a result it caused me to want to feel numb, which I did so with alcohol, marijuana and even drugs heavily from 10-12 years old. I was so sick of my dad and I would run away to get high or drunk. One night I found myself in the youth center. To be honest I felt safe, happy and had people who cared; as well as a routine, school and sports. I didn't have





to worry about any sexual or physical abuse. I have to admit there was more good than bad. Truth be told, it was not for my addiction and the behaviors around using as well as people, places and things, being the same I would be free. But honestly I feel blessed to have been able to take the programs and learn what I have because my life has changed since and I see the others around me drastically changing for the better, which shows me we can transform and rise above our past and we will prove we are capable through our actions, because we refuse to let these titles define who we are and how we are. Now is not the same and it's because we are active learners and we're showing everyone the real person we have become. I thank God every day to be alive and finally at 31, I have a clue and I'm living proof that with people who care to teach others and believe in them transforming. Your identity is beyond possible and I'm progressing daily. I am so blessed to be part of this group because I feel safe and I trust the guys. I have seen so much growth in myself and them. Please believe in us and fix things for everyone. We are not the mistake we made; we're human, someone's family. We need a chance, just one. Thank you so much for the chance to testify on this matter/bill number LD 648.

Sincerely,



Carl Hunter