

Testimony in Support of LD 648

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

My name is Anthony Pratt, and I'm from Warren, Maine. I'm testifying in strong support of LD 648, An Act to Expand Supervised Community Confinement.

In 2013, I was 19 years old when I was incarcerated. I was sentenced two years later, in 2015, to 42 years. I was 22.

When I came in, I didn't know what accountability truly meant. I've spent the last 12 years learning it. I've spent them growing. Today, I'm months away from earning my Business Administration degree from UMA. I'm a certified Intentional Peer Support Specialist. I've taken every opportunity to better myself — not just for me, but for those around me. Still, even with all this growth, there's this lingering feeling: What's the point if the door stays locked?

Hope is fragile in here. Maine doesn't have parole. Good time is limited. And that makes it hard to keep meaningful relationships, to hold on to any real future. I've seen guys in here who haven't had a disciplinary in decades — men who've lost every single family member, but still spend their time creating programs for others. They've rehabilitated. They've changed. But there's no path forward for them.

I'm not just speaking for myself — I'm speaking for them. For those who still believe in change, even when the system hasn't changed for them.

LD 648 could finally open that door. It would allow those of us who've done the work — who've earned the chance — to safely return to our communities, under supervision. It gives the state oversight. It gives us dignity. It gives our loved ones hope.

According to the Maine Department of Corrections, as of 2023, nearly 30% of the prison population is over the age of 45. Many of these individuals have already spent decades inside. How much more do they have to give before they're seen as human again?

Please — let this bill be the start of something better.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 648. Thank you.