



Senator Beebecenter and Representative Hasenfus and esteemed members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

Maine Youth Power, a youth-led youth movement building power to win human dignity, equity, access and a livable future across rural and suburban Maine. Today on behalf of all Maine Youth Power, we ask that you support LD 648 An Act to Expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program.

We stand in strong support of this legislation and would also like to recognize the important work of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition, which has brought together organizations across the state to improve conditions for incarcerated individuals, former inmates, their families, and victims of crime. Their work has also highlighted the urgent need to reinstate parole after its abolishment in Maine and how the SCCP program is the closest to parole.

Most people incarcerated in Maine serve their entire sentence behind bars without meaningful opportunities to demonstrate personal growth or rehabilitation. The SCCP offers a critical alternative by allowing eligible individuals to serve the final portion of their sentence in a community setting – a step that mirrors the principles of parole.

Our movement is at the forefront of advocating for issues youth have been impacted including the criminal justice system. Many of those eligible for SCCP were young when they committed their offenses. The program requires that the individual committed the crime before the age of 26 and has served at least 15 years of their sentence. This recognizes both the developmental science around youth brain development and the importance of second chances. Crimes at a young age have incomplete brain development and may lack impulse control, decision making skills, and/or a full grasp of the consequences of actions especially those who experience untreated mental health challenges that influence their behavior towards committing a crime.

Research consistently shows that youth crime is often rooted in a lack of access to resources and opportunities – especially in marginalized communities. Maine's criminal justice system disproportionately incarcerates Black individuals and other people of color at higher rates than white individuals. These disparities demand action.

SCCP provides structured reentry support – including assistance with housing, employment, and access to essential services – reducing the risk of recidivism and supporting healthier, safer communities.



We believe strongly that expanding SCCP is not only a compassionate choice, but a step closer to a fair criminal justice system and community healing.

I urge you to support LD 648 An Act to Expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Maine Youth Power