

**Testimony in support of LD 648 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

April 23, 2025

Dear Representative Milliken and distinguished members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Policy:

I am writing in support of LD 648, An Act to Expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program.

While the Supervised Community Confinement Program is an important mechanism for select incarcerated individuals to apply for early release to serve the last 24-30 months of their incarceration in the community under supervision, this bill adds two critical considerations. It would provide a provision that would allow incarcerated people who were under the age of 26 when they committed an offense and have served at least 15 years of their sentence to apply for SCCP.

This provision is based on sound science and is in line with the philosophy of the Maine Model of Corrections. Given Maine's history of lengthy prison sentences, there are incarcerated men and women who will straight release after decades in prison without any support system in place. Many of these individuals have engaged in extensive personal rehabilitative work while serving their community of residents around them. Keeping them incarcerated as they age into senior citizens while Maine pays over \$100,000 per year to keep them locked up is not financially, ethically, nor scientifically logical.

I urge you to pass LD 648.

Thank you,

Katrina Hoop

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