

I am submitting written testimony in support of bill LD 1684.

Virginia Cookson was murdered on September 25<sup>th</sup> by Richard Keith Thorpe, who had been released early from prison where he was serving time for domestic violence assault against his ex-wife. This information about his release was not public knowledge nor was his ex-wife informed that he was free.

Virginia was like a daughter to me as she and my daughter were best friends for 27 years. She spent much of her high school years at my house and attended our family functions. She was family, even if not by blood.

As with anyone that Virginia dated (or myself or my daughter), a web search was done on Richard Keith Thorpe and nothing about him serving time for domestic violence was found, nor was his release. Had that information been discovered, Virginia never would have dated him, and she would be alive today.

Also, he had been released to Supervised Community Confinement Program until July 2 yet lived with Virginia in May at the latest. He lived as a free man although he was not officially released from the Dept. of Corrections until July 2<sup>nd</sup>. How was this possible? Why was this allowed?

How many people must be murdered before a domestic violence offender must serve his complete sentence? Any person convicted of felony A & B domestic violence should not be allowed early release. Richard certainly wasn't supervised or confined as the program, Supervised Community Confinement, implies. He posed a threat to society and was released early. He almost murdered his ex-wife and yet was allowed early release? This should never have been allowed.

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BAR HARBOR  
LD 1684

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