

Janet Drew

LD 1684

Testimony to Oppose LD 1684 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety on April 28, 2025. Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Janet Drew. I'm a retired RN, and I live in York, and I ask that you Please Oppose this bill.

I'm disappointed by the number of proposed bills that would create longer sentences behind bars. Maine already orders much harsher penalties than other states.

We don't need another layer of crime and sentences, carving out more crimes for special ostracism. It's punishment enough to have made an awful mistake and be involved with our broken US legal system. None of it helps victims or anyone else to Heal.

In principle, and based on corrections research, financial outcomes, public health, and humanitarian reasons, I support legislation that lifts up individuals, families and our Maine communities. I hope these findings will influence you.

Maine already orders much harsher penalties than other states, and our underfunded legal defense system harms too many of our most vulnerable Maine neighbors, their families and our communities, without the benefit of real help or healing for anyone. But the harms from incarceration exacerbate social woes, which makes our communities less safe.

Please Oppose this bill