

28 April 2025

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Distinguished Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee;

I am writing as a concerned citizen who supports LD 1000, "Release patients and prisoners to responsible adults."

The law can only be seen as a win-win for all parties. I have 30 years of experience in the criminal justice field, including serving on the parole boards in New Jersey and Rhode Island. During this time, I released thousands of offenders who had substance abuse and mental health problems. We found that offenders who were released to responsible adults had a higher success rate than those who were released without support. Releasing individuals to responsible adults has long been one of the best practices, and academic research supports this. This bill should pass because it gives individuals a higher chance of successful return to the community.

Dr. Arthur C. Jones

Maine Notary Public

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"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Sincerely,

Arthur Jones Ph.D

Criminal Justice

Legislative Committee, Restorative Justice Project Maine