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LD 1684

Testimony in Support of LD 1684: An Act to Exclude from Eligibility for a  
Community Confinement Monitoring Program a Person Serving a Sentence for  
Certain Domestic Violence Crimes

Dear Esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and  
Public Safety,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1684, which seeks to amend current statutes to exclude individuals convicted of specific domestic violence offenses—namely domestic violence aggravated assault, elevated aggravated assault, and elevated aggravated assault on a pregnant person—from eligibility for community confinement monitoring programs.

Under existing law, certain inmates may be assigned to community confinement monitoring programs, allowing them to serve portions of their sentences outside traditional incarceration settings. While these programs can be beneficial for nonviolent offenders, extending such privileges to individuals convicted of severe domestic violence crimes poses significant risks.

The nature of domestic violence is inherently coercive and controlling. Allowing perpetrators of severe domestic violence offenses to serve sentences in less restrictive environments can undermine the safety and well-being of survivors. It may also send a message that the justice system does not fully recognize the gravity of these crimes.

Furthermore, the trauma experienced by survivors is compounded when they perceive that their abusers are not held fully accountable. Ensuring that individuals convicted of the most serious domestic violence offenses serve their full sentences in appropriate correctional facilities is a critical step toward affirming the state's commitment to protecting survivors and holding offenders accountable.

LD 1684 represents a necessary refinement of our criminal justice policies, aligning them more closely with the needs and rights of domestic violence survivors. By excluding individuals convicted of the most egregious domestic violence offenses from community confinement programs, we take a stand against domestic violence and affirm our commitment to survivor safety.

I urge you to support LD 1684 and take this important step toward enhancing protections for survivors of domestic violence in Maine.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.