



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

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May 5, 2025

Senator Anne Beebe-Center, Chair
Representative Tavis Hasenfus, Chair
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
5 State House Station, Room 436
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 1844: An Act to Expand the State's Workforce by Supporting the Transition from Incarceration to Employment

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

The Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers is a non-profit organization that has nearly 300 member attorneys who practice criminal defense across the state. Since 1992, MACDL has advocated for its members and the people we are fortunate to represent in courtrooms throughout Maine and at the State House.

MACDL presents this testimony in **support** of LD 1844.

In order to help ensure that our clients re-enter society after long periods of incarceration, it is imperative that they have access to the support and resources necessary to help ease that transition.

LD 1844 would mandate that the Department of Corrections establish and maintain a reentry services program focusing on health (access to healthcare, mental health services, substance use disorder treatment); financial literacy and planning; employment preparation; community and family integration; and technology training. These are typically the areas of life that have eluded our clients, contributing to them falling into criminality in the first place.

Broadly, these are the areas where our clients need the most support—and the areas in which, if supported, would make the most difference in assisting our clients to lead healthier, more stable, more productive and law-abiding lives.

The Department of Corrections must recommit itself to the goals of rehabilitation—in order to achieve that goal, there must be a significant investment in reentry services for those completing prison terms.

We are concerned that the benefits of reentry services may be limited only to those classified as “minimum security”—to have the widest possible benefit, it is important that even those incarcerated people in medium, close, or restrictive housing also be given access to reentry services, regardless of their classification status.

We urge this Committee to vote **ought to pass** on LD 1844—and consider expanding eligibility for such services to all who are due to be released from DOC custody and who must, like anyone else, reintegrate into the community ensuring public safety for all of us.

Thank you for your consideration, for your attention to this important matter, and for allowing me to present this testimony to you all today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tina H. Nadeau", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Tina H. Nadeau, Esq.
MACDL Executive Director