



January 8, 2026

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 1911, Clean Slate Maine

Dear Members of the Joint Judiciary Committee,

As the Founder and CEO of MaineWorks and a proud resident of Maine, I am writing to express my support for LD 1911, otherwise known as Clean Slate.

I founded MaineWorks in 2011 with the vision to provide meaningful employment opportunities for people in recovery from substance use disorder and reentry from jail and prison. What began as a small, values-driven staffing agency has grown into a statewide movement for second chances. Over the years, we've helped thousands of Mainers access steady work, reconnect with community, and move forward with dignity and purpose. We've also proven that people with records aren't just employable – they're also some of the most dedicated, hardworking, and loyal employees in the state.

The reality is that one in four Mainers carry the weight of a criminal record. Even decades-old records can present significant barriers to finding meaningful employment, keeping hardworking and deserving Mainers out of the labor market. At the same time, Maine is still grappling with a severe labor shortage. To keep our economy growing, we should be working to ensure that every Mainer who is willing to work can do so without being permanently sidelined by their past. By passing Clean Slate, Maine would effectively unlock an untapped talent pool.

Not only would Clean Slate have immediate economic benefits – it would also contribute to public safety. One of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism is through stable employment. When a person has a job and a sense of purpose, they are far less likely to return to the justice system. We see this transformation every day at MaineWorks: we aren't just filling jobs; we're building safer, more prosperous communities.

A criminal record should not define a person's potential, and it's time for Maine's laws to reflect that. Clean Slate is a practical and balanced solution that benefits everyone, and I urge you to support it today.

Sincerely,

Margo Walsh
Owner/Founder, MaineWorks