

Testimony in support of LD1941: An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Commission to Examine Reestablishing Parole

To Representative Kuhn, Senator Carney and the esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

This testimony is on behalf of reentry and reintegration and I highly support bringing back parole. Since I arrived in prison I thought it would be how it is in movies, longtimers causing ruckus and being violent. It was nothing close to that. I was brought in like a family and I can say confidently that my rehabilitation began because of individuals serving a lot of time. They didn't force me to do any programming or go to school, but instead they let me know that the path I'm on would end with me back in here doing time that I wouldn't even be able to comprehend. It hit me like a thousand bricks and I know I'm capable of much better. They made me believe in myself. It was the first time in my life there was a community of people who believed in me and wanted to see me do better. Bringing reentry to the forefront would help me continue my rehabilitation beyond these walls.

My name is Abdihamit Ali and I support any bill involving reentry and reintegration into the community. There's no better transition back into the community than parole. It's suffocating knowing there's no hope at the end of the tunnel. At this point the Maine Department of Corrections is just warehousing people. Give us something we can work towards and resources so we can have something to lean on.

I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD1941.

Sincerely,

Abdihamit Ali

Warren, ME, 04864