

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Sean Boyd. I'm currently 30 months into a 20 year sentence. I am writing in support of LD 1962.

An independent oversight process is desperately needed within the MDOC system. I have been toyed with, dealt with unjustly, and threatened more times by staff than other residents during my incarceration. This violates the code of conduct that staff are supposed to adhere to, but who can I turn to when administration is part of the problem when correction officers are spoken to and treat no better, or when any complain on my part could be used against me without justification or any checks and balances.

If issues don't exist, all involve should welcome such a committee to validate such claims of proper conduct and administration. And if issues are present, such a committee could greatly enhance corrections efforts by assuring that all residents are treated with integrity, honesty, respect, dependability, and trust. I'm not saying to pamper those out of control or scheming to violate policy and procedure, I'm asking for those holding positions of power over us to lead by example and model the type of behavior the Department Of Corrections would like instilled on us as residence. Currently the above five values have little meaning within these walls. For some staff, they are a foreign concept altogether.

If the goal of corrections is to bring about positive change, make safer communities, reduce crime, and be less costly to the taxpayers of Maine an independent review process is essential to achieving these goals.

I assure you will like Shawshank redemption seem to portray, unreal or practices, long thought inhumane or unjust. Sadly, hundreds of movies could still be made based on real behaviors and practices alive and well within MDOC.

In kind regards,
Sean Boyd
Maine State Prison

