

Testimony in support of LD 1962 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

January 7, 2026

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Gordon Perry. I have resided at the Maine State Prison for the last 3 decades. I have seen many things over the years I would rather not remember or frankly I will not speak on, but that were horrible and have no place in civil society. I never believed I could be someone who could make a positive impact on society from inside these walls, thanks to the old school ways the prison system once ran, pitting staff against inmates daily, fostering inhumane treatment by both equally. I lived in this system's *boiler*, which all *stemmed* from an old school mentality that supported a broken inhumane system that fueled nothing just. Today things are like night & day compared to my earliest days, thankfully, but we still have work to do which is why I write in support of LD 1962 with all my heart, and all my hope that you use your power to do what is humane and just.

Today we know the M.D.O.C. found a way to change people in the system, and that is why the violence is down, the recidivism rates have decreased, and people like myself even though a lifer no longer sit around harboring animosity from daily inhumane treatment or building criminal friendships or mindsets because we are stuck in an old outdated system, which never worked. Today I spend my time giving back, helping others. Residents are finally succeeding and giving back thanks to the Maine ModeOf Corrections (MMOC) innovative humanizing style. The focus now is on reforming ourselves with education and positive paths that give instead of take while reducing harm.

This came to fruition thanks to the **M.M.O.C.**, with the most successful and most innovative new age reform efforts & policies ever to be implemented in corrections anywhere. The **M.M.O.C. focuses on humanizing treatment** which has proven to **change people like nobody ever believed possible** until Maine solved this simple riddle revolving around treating people like **human beings**. This letter is proof that the new systems ways of **humanizing treatments work**, but it is still not perfect. The grievance system is the biggest lapse in judgement, or defect in policy we need you to fix. The **M.M.O.C.** which speaks to **humanizing avenues of treatment as its success** in better preparing residents reentering, also contributes to lower violence inside. More use of the M.M.O.C.'s humane styled system will ensure more successes... if we have a grievance process with no ties to the M.D.O.C. This is the ultimate policy upgrade. It would keep all staff, residents and the community safe. I hope you will support LD 1962 as I speak for many who will not speak for obvious reasons.

Respectfully Yours,
Gordon E. Perry