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LD 1941

To Whom it may concern,

As a social worker and teaching artist in Southern Maine, I'm familiar with the phrase "intent versus impact."

The "intent" of carceral facilities is to rehabilitate.

The "impact" is harm.

I only know this because of my work with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated folks over the past eight years of my living in Maine.

One can not be "rehabilitated" when solitary confinement, SEG, and the practices adjacent to them decreases their chances at mental health recovery.

One can not be "rehabilitated" when there is more of a focus on repaying a debt for harm while not being able to have the resources inside to heal and hold themselves accountable; carceral staff cannot be the only staff holding them accountable.

One can not be "rehabilitated" when lack of housing options, lack of access to visiting the graves of loved ones who have passed on while inside, lack of substance use treatment, and lack of freedom of marginalized identities holds them back from rehabilitation as an opportunity.

I write this testimony in support of reestablishing parole in order for incarcerated people to have the true access to rehabilitation.

Thank you for your time.

Warmly,

Maya Williams (ey/they/she), MSW & MFA