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Testimony in support of LD 1646 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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

My name is Peter Lehman and I live in Thomaston. I am a formerly incarcerated citizen and a person in long-term recovery.* I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition whose goal is to promote restorative practices in order to increase public safety and the health of our community.

This bill is an attempt to refine Maine's Good Samaritan law to save lives.

Too often, police responding to the call for assistance have paid more attention to upping their arrest body-count than providing medical assistance. Often, in the past, by charging everyone in the vicinity with furnishing and/or trafficking.

In the past, before Good Sam, children were left to die or, at best, dumped outside emergency rooms or fire stations. Good Sam has **SAVED LIVES**.

Yes, these lives are WORTH saving: These are the lives of **our** children and our neighbors' children.

PLEASE support LD 1646.

I am happy to try to answer any questions.

* In the interest of honesty and disclosure, a personal background statement is available on request.