

Carla Hunt  
Yarmouth, Maine, Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition  
LD 1911

To the Judiciary Committee regarding LD1911 - An Act to Automatically Seal  
Criminal Justice History Record Information for Certain Crimes

I am writing as a citizen of Yarmouth, Maine, concerned about reform for Maine's carceral system. I am also board co-chair of Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition, here in Maine.

LD1911, Clean Slate addresses a critical need of system-impacted individuals, who, once they have successfully completed their sentences and have repaid their debt to society, continue to be punished. Their records are serious barriers to education, employment, banking services and housing stability. Rather than moving forward in their quest to rejoin society and live productive lives many are left unable to find adequate employment, adequate housing or further their education. These basic necessities are critical steps to rebuilding lives. Families and children are also affected with their only crime being related to someone who has a record.

Research shows that people who remain crime-free for a certain period are no more likely to commit a crime than anyone else in the general population. Clean Slate policies recognize this reality while maintaining the necessary checks and balances to ensure fairness and security. Over 10 states have already enacted such laws.

I strongly urge you support this bill which offers solid pathways to living productive lives for system-impacted individuals who make up 25% of Maine's population.

Thank you,  
Carla Hunt  
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Board Co-Chair, Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition