

January 12th, 2026

TO: The Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

RE: Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 1923: An Act to Repurpose Long Creek Youth Development Center and Build a Community System of Support.

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and esteemed members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Gabby. I am here today testifying in favor of LD 1923: an act to repurpose long creek youth development center and build a community system of support.

This bill offers a balanced and responsible approach to improving outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system by emphasizing treatment, prevention, and accountability rather than incarceration. Converting the Long Creek Youth Development Center into a secure residential treatment facility ensures that youth receive essential services, including behavioral health care, education, substance use treatment, and stable housing within a structured and supportive environment.

The bill also directs funding to community-based organizations and reinvests juvenile justice funds into local services, strengthening a statewide system of care that supports youth both in facilities and in their communities. The creation of a cross-agency working group encourages evidence-based planning and coordination, while regular public reporting of juvenile justice data promotes transparency and accountability.

Together, these measures establish a more effective, humane, and responsible juvenile justice system that supports rehabilitation, reduces repeat offenses, and enhances long-term public safety.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Gabby