

Amy Frankel  
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January 21, 2026

Senator Beebe-Center, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

I am a PhD candidate and part-time faculty in the School of Social Work at the University of Maine, Orono. I have been actively involved in the reentry and recovery community in Maine since 2019. As a resident of Knox County and a Licensed Master of Social Work (LMSW) in the state of Maine, I am requesting your consideration and support for LD 1911 – An Act to Automatically Seal Criminal History Record Information for Certain Crimes.

By completing a term of incarceration, individuals have repaid their debt to society and earned the right to rejoin the community on equal footing. In Maine, the punishment never ends because records of legal system involvement follow individuals around wherever they go, negatively affecting multiple dimensions of life.

A history of incarceration creates lasting barriers to employment and housing. Even if job candidates are not specifically asked about their history of incarceration on applications, background searches conducted further along in the hiring process generate the same result. Without a job, an individual is unable to secure housing. Despite the obvious necessity of obtaining shelter, housing policies deny public housing options for formerly incarcerated citizens. Housing is generally limited to privately owned or independent renters whose properties are more expensive and/or unstable. Life for Mainers with a criminal record far too often includes permanent economic insecurity.

This legislation has the ability to transform the lives of individuals worthy of our support who are eager to become part of the social fabric of society. LD 1911 will make successful reentry possible by allowing the state of Maine to reduce barriers and ease some of the challenges faced by returning citizens who have demonstrated accountability and lasting commitment to change.

Thank you for reviewing my letter to support LD 1911.

Sincerely,

Amy Frankel

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