

I rise to oppose LD 178.

My name is William Guerrette from Pittston, Maine. I am a lifelong Maine resident and victim of a violent crime. My life and the life of my daughter have been irreparably damaged by a brutal home invasion and attempted murder by machete at the hands of Leo Hilton.

My daughter and I both have irreparably brain damage and the childhood of my sweet ten year old daughter was stolen. My 33 year marriage was also a victim and my family broken up.

The miracle from God that my daughter survived after being called deceased at the scene would be irreparably harmed by the parole of our attempted murderers. She will likely be forced to move from our state by constant fear. The fact that my daughter's mental ability, childhood, and lifelong security were stolen by men that chose to kill her rather than leave a witness to my murder.

Criminals have been sentenced based on a system without parole. To bring back parole will again victimize my family. Please do not be part of that. I love Maine and its people. We are a beautiful and safe state. Please do not re-victimize the Maine victims of violent crime.

We deserve better. I beg you to put victims before their perpetrators. Perhaps passing a victims' rights legislation would be a better choice.

1. Restorative justice
2. Rehabilitation
3. College education and training

Where are these benefits and programs for me and my daughter?