

# Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



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## **Testimony in favor of LD 1301 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety April 10, 2023**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, 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 in favor of LD 1301 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.

How is it possible that this bill is necessary? Is it possible that women and men transition out of jail every day and no one is responsible for helping with their transition?

Is it possible that a jail has furloughs but residents aren't told the rules or that there aren't any rules?

Overall, this bill is simply about providing what common sense would have assumed is already done. Or should be.

A special note about the transition coordinator: if we don't do this, people will simply come back over and over, costing us more and more money and time and more victims.

I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your generous attention.

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