

# Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



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## **Testimony in support of LD 1086 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety April 24, 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 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.

Last Session, in the process of trying to grapple with the use and limits of restrictive housing in prisons and jails, discussion got tangled up in conflicting definitions or understandings of the emotional term "solitary confinement."

The discussion of restrictive housing and appropriate responses to violence in correctional institutions is still valuable. We thank Rep. Lookner for trying to move us beyond those emotional responses to an undefined term and allow the discussion to move forward.

We urge you to support this attempt to further positive conversation and support LD 1086.

Thank you for your generous attention.

I'd be happy to try to answer questions.

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