

Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



Peter M. Lehman, PhD

20 Lawrence Ave.
Thomaston, Maine 04861
(207) 542-1496
Peter@GrowInME.com

Testimony in Support of LD 527 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, 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 support of LD 527 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.

This bill takes a step toward professionalizing the bail process in Maine by creating a new position of bail officer within the judicial branch to set and execute bail in accordance with the law.

Beyond the creation of bail officers within the judicial branch, we especially appreciate that appropriate training would be incorporated into the curriculum of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

We would like to thank the Judicial branch for initiating this bill and welcome the idea of professionalizing the bail process.

Thank you for your attention.

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