

# Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



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## **Testimony in support of LD 981 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 981 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

It seems in everybody's interest to ensure that victims are notified as promptly and reliably as possible, as required by 15 MRSA §2136, §2138, and §6101 and 17A MRSA §2106.

These requirements are to ensure that the victim is able to be party to actions when desired and appropriate and to counter feelings of insecurity and exclusion.

Moving to electronic notifications seems more effective and certainly more timely.

Electronic notifications should also save money in the longer term, far exceeding the modest expenditure to put an effective system in place.

We urge support for this important step forward.

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