



**Testimony in Support of LD 822:  
*An Act to End the Collection of Certain Probation Fees***

Good Morning Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Honorable Members of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee,

My name is Jon Reynolds and I am the organizing Director of the Maine Recovery Action Project (ME-RAP), and I am here today to testify in strong support of LD 822, "An Act to End the Collection of Certain Probation Fees." This bill is a critical step toward a more just and rehabilitative criminal justice system in Maine.

These fees do not serve the rehabilitative purpose of probation; rather, they create barriers to successful reentry and disproportionately impact low-income individuals who are working hard to rebuild their lives. As a person who has successfully completed probation there were many months I could not afford my supervision fee and ultimately at the end of my probation sentence I successfully completed and went above and beyond expectations but had not finished paying my supervision fees.

Probation should be a pathway to rehabilitation, not an additional financial penalty that risks pushing people back into cycles of poverty and recidivism. Research has shown that financial strain is one of the key factors that contribute to reoffending. By eliminating these fees, we allow individuals on probation to focus on finding stable employment, securing housing, and reconnecting with their families—steps that are far more effective in reducing recidivism than financial penalties.

Failure to pay these fees result in a technical violation which oftentimes can result in a probation revocation even if no new crime or offense has been committed. These "technical violations" ultimately result in more of a burden on the tax payers due to unintentional recidivism.

LD 822 aligns with Maine's commitment to fair and effective criminal justice policies. Ending these probation fees will remove an unnecessary burden from those seeking to move forward with their lives while also ensuring that our probation system prioritizes rehabilitation over revenue generation.

I urge this committee to support LD 822 and take a meaningful step toward justice reform in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

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