

Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



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Testimony neither for nor against LD 1034 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 on LD 1034 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.

We wish to second the excellent testimony on behalf this bill.

The negative human and societal costs of criminalizing substances is well known. In that sense, de-criminalizing Psilocybin makes sense. But it is not enough.

The most consequential human and societal costs come from criminalizing the **distribution** of a substance. When we send a substance into the black market, we lose control of quality, the price goes up and we create a shadow economy of violence and profiteering.

Many of the negative physical consequences of illegal drug use, such as overdoses, come from the illegality of its distribution. The buyer doesn't know what they are getting.

In order to truly decriminalize personal use of Psilocybin, you need to amend LD 1034 to decriminalize its distribution and perhaps regulate its distribution to ensure purity and oversight.

We urge you to amend and support LD 1034.

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