

# Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



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## **Testimony in support of LD 421 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

April 7, 2025

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 421 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 proposes to remove eight sub-sections in the Maine Criminal Code that allow a Court to suspend a person's driver's license for up to five years as part of the penalty for various drug offenses.

The problem comes when that person is released sooner than their suspension expires.

At that point, the license suspension essentially dooms their reentry. It makes it impossible to get to work, get groceries, report to probation or get counseling.

It places a large and immutable barrier to success.

Note that this is AFTER they have paid their penalty of incarceration.

We urge you to support this legislation and unanimously vote Ought To Pass on LD 421.

Thank you for your attention and support.

I'll be happy to try to answer any questions.

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