



**Holly T. Sargent**

625 York Street

York, ME 03909

(207) 358-4793

[Holly.Sargent@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Holly.Sargent@legislature.maine.gov)

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

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*Testimony of Rep. Holly T. Sargent in support of*  
**LD 648, An Act to Expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program**  
*Before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee*

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Holly Sargent, and I represent House District 147, which includes part of York. I am here today in strong support of **LD 648**, which seeks to expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program of the Maine Department of Corrections (DOC).

This bill builds upon the success of the current program, which has already proven effective in reducing recidivism and assisting individuals in their reintegration into society. By expanding eligibility to include individuals who committed crimes before the age of 26, LD 648 creates an important opportunity for young adults who have demonstrated good behavior to participate in this valuable program.

Research has consistently shown that the human brain is not fully developed until the mid-20s, particularly in areas related to decision-making, impulse control and risk assessment. Young adults who commit crimes before the age of 26 are still in critical stages of brain development, and many of these individuals show a capacity for change with appropriate interventions. Expanding eligibility for this program aligns with our understanding of adolescent and young adult development and the potential for rehabilitation during this period of brain maturation.

In Maine, where we have no parole and sentencing is determined with little room for reconsideration, LD 648 provides a vital avenue for rehabilitation. It allows eligible individuals who have shown positive behavior to participate in supervised community confinement, offering them a second chance to reintegrate into society while still being held accountable for their actions.

The program is already successful in helping individuals gain access to education, work and community involvement, and expanding it will allow more individuals to benefit from these opportunities. These programs are proven to reduce recidivism and improve long-term public safety.

This bill is not just about increasing the number of participants in a program—it is about offering a more compassionate, research-based approach to criminal justice that acknowledges the unique developmental challenges faced by young adults, while still holding them accountable. It's an important step toward a more effective, humane and fair criminal justice system in Maine.

I strongly urge you to support LD 648. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.