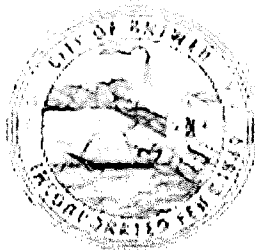


Christopher M. Martin  
Director of Public Safety, Chief

Anthony B. Pinette  
Deputy Chief



Virginia McDonald  
Administrative Assistant

## **Honorable Members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today in support of LD 1536, "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Bail."

I would like to begin with a story—unfortunately, one that is not unique in my line of work.

It was 6 a.m. on a Saturday morning when a woman called 911. Her boyfriend had just destroyed her personal property and threatened to kill her. This individual was already under multiple bail conditions, including a prohibition on contacting her, stemming from a prior domestic violence assault—yet he entered her vehicle, smashed her radio, and threw her belongings out the window while crossing a bridge. Despite his threats, she called the police.

We knew this man well. He had four active sets of bail conditions, each a promise to obey the law and avoid further contact with the victim. And yet, just two hours after being released from jail—on a fresh set of bail conditions—he was back at it again.

This incident didn't happen in a large city like New York or Los Angeles. It happened right here in Brewer, Maine, four days ago during my day shift.

### **The Data Behind the Reality**

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. In 2024 alone, the Brewer Police Department charged **75 individuals** with bail violations. The statistics are alarming:

- Many of these arrests were also tied to **drug-related offenses**.
- Approximately **30 incidents** involved **specific victims**—cases of theft, criminal trespass, criminal mischief, domestic violence, and similar crimes.
- The average individual charged with a bail violation had **2.4 sets of bail conditions**, meaning they had already been released—often multiple times—before reoffending.

One of the most frustrating cases involved a person with **12 sets of bail conditions** who went on to commit theft against yet another victim in our community.

In total, **30 victims** in Brewer were directly affected by individuals who—under any reasonable standard—should have been incarcerated at the time of their offenses.

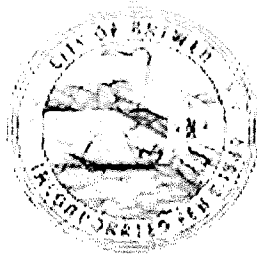
### **The Impact of the Current System**

Opponents of this bill often argue that an individual's financial status should not determine their freedom, and that pretrial detention creates obstacles to employment. But based on our local experience, the reality is very different.

Of the 75 individuals arrested for bail violations in Brewer last year, **most were unemployed at the time of their arrest**. These individuals are not being incentivized to seek employment or better their lives. Instead, they continue to **commit crimes with little fear of accountability**. The current bail system, rather than serving as a second chance, has too often become a vehicle for repeat victimization.

Christopher M. Martin  
Director of Public Safety, Chief

Anthony B. Pinette  
Deputy Chief



Virginia McDonald  
Administrative Assistant

**In Closing**

I am here today to advocate not only as a law enforcement officer, but as a representative of victims—those who suffer the consequences of our current bail practices. Accountability should matter. Financial status alone should not outweigh the safety and rights of our community members.

I respectfully urge you to support the passage of LD 1536.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary Caron", is written over a horizontal line.

Sergeant Zachary Caron  
Brewer Police Department