

Dianne Martin
Randolph, Maine

TESTIMONY in favor of LD1911

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, distinguished members of the committee,

My name is Dianne Martin and I'm from Randolph Maine. Today I wish to address the importance of the Clean Slate bill being passed.

I had a wonderful opportunity of meeting and hearing from loved ones' family members; the stories break one's heart. For not only is the inmate locked up but their family is right alongside them.

I am a survivor of a violent assault, but I stand here before you and say it does not and will not justify me the right to give a lifetime punishment. Once again not only the offenders here pay the price the whole family pays the price.

Once their punishment has been served and now ready to be back into society, they should be allowed a chance to earn a CLEAN SLATE. Benefits it gives to not just the inmate that is being released but to his or her spouse, member of our community, to be able to seek a decent paying job to provide for their children. To find affordable housing, to be able to put food on the table and time to be a family with not such heavy burdens especially after already serving their time.

Without clean slate, many employers tend to reject people that have a past record without allowing the chance to prove themselves.

Getting back into society getting a job so rent can get paid, groceries can be purchased, bills caught up and most and far most important, children have stability back in their lives.

LET'S TREAT ALL AS WE OURSELVES WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED.

Thank you for your attention.