

**Testimony in Support of LD 1941: An Act to Implement Recommendations of the
Commission to Examine Reestablishing Parole**

**Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and disguised members of the Judiciary
Committee,**

My name is Jennie Ferrare- I was born in Bangor, Maine and am now a resident in Portland. I'm a mother, a graduate student at the University of southern Maine, an intern with the Center for Effective Public Policy, a small business owner, a woman in recovery from addiction and the daughter, sister, friend and partner of formerly incarcerated individuals. My research in graduate school has revolved around elders in prison and I'd like to read a few facts that I believe are important for legislators to hear today:

1. This year, the cost of incarcerating the average resident at Maine State Prison will be \$73,000. The elderly and infirmed will likely cost \$146,000 to \$365,000 annually.
2. The rearrest rate for those 65 and older was just 13.4% over an eight-year follow-up period, compared to 67.6% for offenders under 21. These people are not a danger to the community.
3. The US Sentencing Commission's Report states that terms of incarceration exceeding 10 years yield no rehabilitative benefit that improves public safety.

There is no reason why we should be spending taxpayer money to incarcerate our elders.

Through the Center Effective Public Policy I have had the honor of working with women at the Maine Correctional Center who are serving time and making the most of any opportunities presented to them while they are incarcerated. I will now read the testimony of two of those individuals on the issue of ren-instatement of parole in Maine.