

# Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



*Peter M. Lehman, PhD*  
20 Lawrence Ave.  
Thomaston, Maine 04861  
(207) 542-1496  
Peter@GrowInME.com

## **Testimony in support of LD 661, to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety March 24, 2021**

Senator Deschambault, Representatives Warren, and distinguished members of the Committees.

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 speaking for the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition which has the goal of promoting restorative practices to increase public safety and the health of the community.

As Representative Talbot Ross has explained, the main purpose of this bill is simple equity. Without this change, those residents incarcerated in smaller facilities do not have the ability to petition for rule hearings.

The original understanding of the need for this bill was the realization that women residents of DOC facilities had the right to petition but they didn't have the ability simply because of numbers.

This rectifies that disparity in the treatment of women and men.

We urge you to vote Ought to Pass.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

---

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