

To: Senator Susan Deschambault, Representative Charlotte Warren and Honorable Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

From: Jeffrey Taylor, MSP Resident

Re: Support for LD 476

Date: March 1, 2021

**LD 476 An Act to Provide Assisted Living and
Long-Term Nursing Care for Incarcerated Persons**

For the past 14 years I have been incarcerated at the Maine State Prison, and in that time, I have observed a substantial increase in older residents. Due to the increase in an aging population, medical issues are getting increasingly graver and more frequent. Even medical staff would agree that the increase in health issues is overwhelming our clinic. Having assisted living and long-term nursing homes to receive qualified residents will likely prolong lives due to the higher quality medical treatment that these outside facilities provide. Extending DOC residents' lives through better care in outside facilities is not only humane, it has the potential to prepare those with a chance of someday reintegrating into the community to become more proactive and pro-social. It is also important to remember to not let the one bad day/moment define a person's existence. It is our duty as contributing members to society to mentor others by demonstrating empathy and compassion. Most incarcerated individuals feel detached from their community, and a residency in an assisted living or long-term nursing environment will undoubtedly increase the feeling of being part of a community, reducing the detrimental effects of isolation. It is for these reasons that I stand in strong support of LD 476.