

Cushman Anthony
Yarmouth

Dear members of the Criminal Justice Committee,
My name is Cushman Anthony and I live in Yarmouth. I am a retired lawyer and mediator, as well as a former member of the Legislature, from 1986 to 1992.

I am testifying in support of LD 696, which seeks to prohibit solitary confinement in all of Maine's jails and prisons. Solitary confinement is practically cruel and abusive treatment prohibited by the Constitution. It does great harm to an individual to be denied access to companionship of any kind for almost 24 hours a day. It generates nothing positive, and often results in significant harm to the mental health of the person confined in that way. It has no business being in any facility in Maine.

Thank you.

Cushman D. Anthony