

abdi abdalla
Lewiston

Hello everyone,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today. I am here to speak in favor of LD 963, "An Act To Create Culturally Sensitive Treatment and Recovery Halfway Houses for Immigrants Transitioning out of the Juvenile Justice System." My name is Abdi Abdalla, and I am a resident of Lewiston, Maine.

I am sharing my experiences today as a member of the community, the lack of culturally competent facilities has direct consequences: homelessness, drug dealing, prostitution. Also, both youth and parents feel like they cannot be heard or find anyone who understands their experience. There is very low trust with the authorities.

Thank you for having me here to testify and for giving me the chance to share my story with you today.