

Megan Bastey
Augusta

Dear Senator Desambault, Representative Warren, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Megan Bastey. I am a resident of Augusta and I have been a bookseller for twenty years. Sometimes people come in for leisure reading and sometimes people come in for help finding reading materials because life has gotten incredibly difficult. Divorce, grief, depression, health complications, drug addiction, or to purchase items for their family member who is in a correctional facility, these are all times when it is important for me to be discreet and kind.

During these conversations I don't try to upsell or make sure they walk away with my favorite books, nor does my employer expect that in these circumstances.

My job is to try and ease the difficulty of their circumstance by being helpful and to try my best to give them what they need to make those circumstances better.

Maine Jails and Prisons should not be charging excessive telephone, video, and commissary charges during the worst time in a family's life for those same reasons, and because those family and community connections may be what keeps them from reoffending.

I urge your committee to vote ought to pass.

Thank you,
Megan Bastey
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