

Steve Dobson
Gorham, ME - Courage House

I'm a resident of the Courage House in Gorham. I just got out of prison after doing a three year bid here in Maine.

When COVID first started, I was at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham, and with the pandemic and everything, they started giving us two free calls a week. But once I got transferred up to the Mountain View prison up in Charleston, we didn't get any free calls there. My understanding was that the guys there had gotten free calls for a while, like we had in Windham, but then I guess that privilege got taken away. I don't know all the details. But I wonder if anybody does? Does the legislature even know which jails and prisons had which phone policies over the last year? Do you know if the prisons actually did what they said they were going to do? Because, as far as I can tell, these policies are different at all of Maine's different county jails and state prisons.

Even if one jail or one prison wants to help the inmates make phone calls, if we don't make an actual law, I think it's a pretty safe bet that most of them won't change. I urge your committee to help lower the cost of these calls by voting to support LD 1175.