

My name is Gina Glidden. I am currently on SCCP. I've been home for about two weeks now. The letter I'm about to read you I actually wrote while I was still incarcerated. Someone was going to present this letter for me, since we weren't allowed to give testimony while incarcerated. I am very grateful to be here today to provide my own testimony, but I would still like to read you that same letter.

I am writing today as an incarcerated woman to ask the Maine State Legislature to pass LD 1175. The bill would lower the price of phone calls in jails and prisons. In the prison phone calls cost \$1.35 per 15-minute phone call and county jails phone calls are about \$5 per call.

That probably doesn't sound like a lot of money to most people, but when you're in prison there is no way to earn money. The money for the calls comes from loved ones on the outside. When you have two children, a sister, two parents, and a grandparent how do you decide which ones you call that week and which ones you skip until you have more money?

When I first got here, my mom died from stage four-brain cancer. Having to space the phone calls I made to her out as she was rapidly deteriorating and starting to forget who I was, was the hardest thing I've ever had to go through but I couldn't ask her for more money. That would have been worse.

My sentence will end soon. I will have paid my debt to society but without a connection to my family and friends, I worry that I will return to prison. Building and maintaining relationships in the community is essential in my process of rehabilitation and reintegration back into society. This bill will help to ensure that I still have relationships to go home to.

-Gina Glidden