

Anne Farrington
Auburn

Anne Farrington, Auburn

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and other members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:

I'm writing in support of LD 663, and asking you to support it, as well.

I'm grateful to Representative Warren for bringing this forward. I am fortunate in that I have no family or friends incarcerated in Maine jails or prisons. But I resent that I DO have incarcerated neighbors -- fellow Mainers I haven't met yet -- who are being harmed by the lack of a comprehensive and consistent program for treating their substance use disorder.

This legislation is important because, as Sheriff Scott Kane reminded us earlier this year, we can't yet trust all our jail administrators to provide adequate safeguards for the well-being of Maine people who are incarcerated in our jails and prisons.

And as Maine works toward spending less money on policing and incarceration, and more money on services and programs that address mental illness, poverty and homelessness, it's important that we do all we can to provide appropriate medical care to those who could benefit from treatment for substance use disorder, especially if they reside in Maine prisons and jails.

Please vote Ought to Pass. Thank you.