

Mikki Rice
Freeman Township

Dear Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and distinguished members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Thank you for my testimony in opposition to LD 1035 "An Act to Prohibit Maintaining Drug Involved Premises". My name is Mikki Rice and I live in Freeman Township, Maine. I am speaking in opposition to this bill because what we know now about drug addiction and harm reduction go against what this bill is trying to do.

Instead of me trying to "reinvent the wheel", so to say, I am going to copy/paste part of a website by PEW Research Institute. I will put the website address in here as well, in case you would like more information from their very informative web page.

"One primary reason for sentencing an offender to prison is deterrence—conveying the message that losing one's freedom is not worth whatever one gains from committing a crime. If imprisonment were an effective deterrent to drug use and crime, then, all other things being equal, the extent to which a state sends drug offenders to prison should be correlated with certain drug-related problems in that state. The theory of deterrence would suggest, for instance, that states with higher rates of drug imprisonment would experience lower rates of drug use among their residents.

To test this, Pew compared state drug imprisonment rates with three important measures of drug problems— self-reported drug use (excluding marijuana), drug arrest, and overdose death—and found no statistically significant relationship between drug imprisonment and these indicators. In other words, higher rates of drug imprisonment did not translate into lower rates of drug use, arrests, or overdose deaths".

The PEW Research Institute is only one of many that have researched the issue of using harm reduction instead of criminalizing. All you have to do is google Harm Reduction to see all of the research that has been done.

I thank the committee for reading my testimony and I hope you will vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 1035 "An Act to Prohibit Maintaining a Drug Involved Premises", because there is no logical reason to pass it.

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2018/03/more-imprisonment-does-not-reduce-state-drug-problems>