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Mainers support closing Long Creek. Research and pilot programs in other states routinely show us that moving youth out of correctional facilities and into community based care systems lead to lower recidivism. Long Creek is too often used as a hold over because youth cannot go home, not because they are intended to stay in Long Creek. Maine could join the movements started in New York and San Francisco to find alternatives to throwing youth into a system that was never designed to facilitate their futures by reinvesting the money currently being funneled into the correctional facility toward community based programs and other social services needed by the citizens of Maine, youth especially. Prisons are marginalizing and traumatizing for anyone, especially those still in development. The adverse health outcomes associated with entry and engagement with the prison industrial complex are well established. Maine could help lead the way in actually assimilating this knowledge into our laws and practices by showing care and compassion for the upcoming generation by closing Long Creek and investing in the future's of our youth. Community based and service driven programs are effective from both humanitarian and monetary perspectives. We have already lost time, lost youth, and lost resources. We cannot wait any longer. We must resolve to do better by those we are supposed to protect.