Mylo Nonni Portland, Maine

My name is Mylo Nonni and I am a Portland, Maine resident in favor of LD 1668 - Resolve, To Develop a Plan To Close the Long Creek Youth Development Center and Redirect Funding to Community Integration Services for Adjudicated Youth. Long Creek Youth Development Center is harmful to our youth. They are telling us it is a toxic

Long Creek Youth Development Center is harmful to our youth. They are telling us it is a toxic environment that only damages their growth and development. Prison makes it harder for young people to finish school, get jobs in the future, and build positive relationships that will help them become healthy adults. We need to reinvest the 18.6 million dollars and create resources that will not only meet our young people's needs but help them flourish. Our community should not be okay with allowing a place that harms our young people to exist. LD 1668 gives a clear alternative to Long Creek, makes more sense economically, and will positively impact our communities at large.

Punishing our youth for reacting to the failures of the systems that exist is not an effective way to correct their behavior. We need to divest from Long Creek prison and reinvest in resources that will build our youth up and let them know they are a priority and deserving of support.

Thank you.