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Hello,

I support LD 1668, the resolve to develop a plan to close Long Creek Youth Development Center and Redirect funding to community integration services.

I believe, and know from experiencing a sibling being detained at a juvenile center, that incarcerating children is wrong and counterproductive. A 2019 report on Maine's juvenile justice system showed that 53% of detained youth in Long Creek are there because there was no community based residential program for the youth. LD 1668 calls for the investment into community programs and transforming the property of Long Creek into a community center with supportive housing.

Incarceration at Long Creek is also unjust, with 23% of youth there being Black while only 1.3% of Maine's population is Black.

The 18.6 million dollars would be much better spent building community programs and refuge than a punitive system where children are abused.

Thank you