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York
LD 696

Senator Deschambault, Rep Warren and honorable members of the criminal justice and public safety committee.

Please Support LD 696 An Act To Prohibit Solitary Confinement in Maine's Corrections System.

LD 696 Creates a partnership between Maine people, the legislature, and the Maine correctional system by establishing standards of care and enhancing transparency

Solitary confinement is currently undefined and there are no standards for any type of isolation alone in a cell.

This bill

Makes care of those incarcerated more humane, which in turn will result in safer communities

Restricts the use of isolation in a cell to reasons of safety, not punishment

Helps those in the correctional system with mental health diagnoses to get the care they need

Moves Maine's correctional system toward a better use of taxpayer dollars

Helps those leaving prison to have a greater chance of success upon re-entry to communities. They will be your neighbor, your co-worker and maybe your friend.

LD 696 Defines Solitary Confinement as the practice of leaving a person alone in a cell for more than 20 hours a day and bans that practice

Sets clear standards for who is placed in such confinement, how they are treated and places a priority on rapid transition to rehabilitation