

Anne Farrington  
Auburn  
LD 696

To the members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

RE: LD 696 -- An Act to Ban Solitary Confinement in Maine's Correctional Facilities

Closer to the end of my life than I was 60-some years ago, I would like to see Maine succeed in becoming a better place for all of us to live, work and play, and raise our families. That can happen if you support the amended version of LD 696 before you.

Maine now has the opportunity to demonstrate leadership, respect for human dignity and compassion by banning (completely ending) the practice of solitary confinement of people incarcerated in our prisons and jails.

Common sense and common decency dictate that solitary confinement, especially when used for punishment, is ineffective and cruel. There are studies available -- for those who need them -- addressing the detrimental outcomes of this tactic. With regard to LD 696, many people have been courageous in sharing their horrifying experiences with solitary confinement, and I hope you have taken the time to read them and take them to heart.

This is your opportunity to begin to lead Maine out of the dark ages of incarceration. I am asking your support for LD 696.

Anne Farrington  
Auburn, Maine