

Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



Peter M. Lehman, PhD
20 Lawrence Ave.
Thomaston, Maine 04861
(207) 542-1496
Peter@GrowInME.com

Testimony in Support of LD 1862 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety February 9, 2022

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and distinguished members of the Committees.

My name is Peter Lehman and I live in Thomaston. I am a formerly incarcerated citizen and a person in long-term recovery.* I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition whose goal is to promote restorative practices in order to increase public safety and the health of our community.

I almost died from my addictions, but I was saved by my brothers and sisters. I went to prison, but I survived. My sisters and brothers helped me.

I have brothers and sisters, still in imprisoned, both by drugs and by the state.

The work of the Prisoner Advocacy Coalition and the reentry network is because we refuse to leave those sisters and brothers behind. We refuse to throw them away and leave them to die.

This bill is about **not** leaving brothers and sisters behind.

Not throwing them out like trash.

Not leaving them to die.

We have thrown away and left people behind for far too long.

Please don't encourage people to leave sisters and brothers behind.

* In the interest of honesty and disclosure, a personal background statement is available on request.

Don't threaten people with retribution if they stay to help or call for help.

Don't put people at risk for helping other human beings in need.

That is not only wrong but reprehensible.

Please expand the good Samaritan laws. Don't leave my brothers and sisters behind to die.

We strongly urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1862.

Thank you for your attention and support.