

Testimony in Support of LD 1552

Dear Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

My name is Jean Adamson. I live in Hampden, and I'm testifying in support of LD 1552. I am an interfaith seminary student and also a member of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN) which has testified separately in support of this bill.

The UU faith tradition affirms and promotes equity, compassion, and justice in human relations. Equity means fair treatment, access, advancement, and opportunity for all people. It strives to identify and eliminate barriers that prevent the full participation of our citizens.

Coming from these faith tradition/ethical considerations, we must recognize and address the reality that a great number of newly-released, formerly incarcerated individuals face daunting barriers in obtaining the means for effective reintegration back into society. They may not have family or social agency supports to help provide them with access to opportunities for transitioning successfully to life beyond prison walls.

LD 1552 will fix this! Federal grant money will provide reentry services such as development and implementation plans including resource referral and counseling, assistance in finding and securing safe and affordable housing, work readiness activities, and employment search assistance.

Justice demands that we attempt to remove all barriers that confer human disparities in our society. Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 1552.

Thank you,

Jean Adamson