

Paley Burlin  
Brunswick  
LD 178

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the criminal justice and public safety committee, my name is Paley Burlin. I am a resident of Brunswick and a licensed mental health professional. I volunteer at Maine State Prison providing emotional healing circles to inmates through a non-profit organization known as Jericho Circle. I am writing to you today to show my absolute support for LD 178 and the effort to re-establish parole in Maine.

I support this bill because it gives a second chance to those who have made big mistakes. The Alliance for Safety and Justice did a national survey of crime survivors which showed that victims wanted rehabilitation rather than punishment for those who harmed them by a 2 to 1 margin. Most of society believes our criminal justice system is broken and in need of reform. Re-instituting parole would be a big step in that direction. I work with men in prison who are earnestly committed to improving themselves as people, learning emotional coping skills and empathy, and supporting other inmates to improve their own lives. These men need a pathway to return to society.

It also saves tax payers money to reinstitute parole.

Thank you for your work and for considering my opinion. I hope I can count on your support for LD 178.