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To Whom It May Concern: I am not a Maine resident but I am close to Steven Matthew Clark who is currently incarcerated at the Maine State Prison for 36 years. He has served half of his time. In those past 16-18 years, Steven has improved himself - has received an AA, two BAs and a Masters and is working on his PhD along with many other helpful certifications like substance abuse counselor.

Steven deserves to be out helping our community PREVENT others from going down the wrong path and becoming incarcerated. We need people like Steven out in the community giving hope to people.

How can we teach our children forgiveness when the example in Maine is if you make a mistake there is no forgiveness - only punishment. It also removes hope from the incarcerated - why should they try and be better when the system has created odds against them?

From the research that is out in the public, there is no downside to bringing back parole to Maine. I would hope one of the requirements of parole is to have a degree of some sort. Even if it's just an AA. We need to have our prisoners educated so they can see and feel and understand there is a better way.

Please bring back parole to Maine. Please give these people hope and dignity. Create a positive pathway forward.

I appreciate you time.