

SHAHINA MAHMOOD
Cave Creek
LD 178

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Shahina Mahmood and I am writing to you in support of LD842 - An Act to Re-establish Parole. My husband, Mr. Khursheed Mallick, has also sent an email similar to this but I wanted to personally make a similar request as it will make a big difference to a family related to us who is in need of help.

I am a US citizen and live in Arizona. I have been a school teacher my entire professional life and currently working for Cactus Shadows High School under Cave Creek Unified School District.

I am writing to you today to show my absolute support for LD 178 and the effort to re-establish parole in Maine.

I am voicing my support for LD 178 - An Act to Support Re-entry and Reintegration into the Community. This bill is very personal to me and the rest of my extended family as this gives us some hope for one of our family members who committed a serious crime more than 25 years ago.

I am writing to you with a sincere hope that I can draw your attention to the following:

It is my humble opinion that RE-ESTABLISHING parole in Maine will be a very good thing. It is important to note that LD 178 has significant safeguards to protect the public as well as recognized law enforcement and reformatory purposes. I strongly believe that LD 178 will be POSITIVE for Maine, and neither the safety of society nor the legislative, penological or penal objectives could be compromised

I recommend that LD 178 add the requirement: "An inmate who satisfies all criteria for parole eligibility could be paroled even though He or She was subject to an immigration and naturalization service detainer". I believe that states like Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska and New Jersey, to name a few, have provisions which allow the Parole Board to "Grant a parole to a federal immigration detainer in order that the offender may be deported to the country of citizenship" IDAHO, IDAPA 50.01.01.250 (07) (b) (i).

I would like to draw your kind attention to the case of NADIM HAQUE (my nephew), a citizen of India, who was convicted of a murder in 1996 and sentenced to 50 years of prison term in Maine penitentiary. He has already served over 25 years of his sentence. I know that the crime committed was very serious and the loss experienced by the family of the deceased cannot be described in words. I would still request to show him mercy and gift him a second chance

Nadim Haque belongs to a simple middle-class family in India. I am pleading to give him a second chance because his family needs him now more than ever. His parents are getting older (around 80 years or more). His younger sister (living with parents) was battling with cancer for a long time, she got paralysed a few years back and finally succumbed to her illness in December 2021. This has given a big emotional blow to Nadim Haque's parents. They have yet to recover from this tragedy. Nadim Haque's presence with them (in India on parole under LD 178) will make life easier for them and repair, to some extent, the damages done by destiny/ circumstances.

Sometime back, his father, who is 80 + years old, was also diagnosed with DEMENTIA. His mother has been suffering from Arthritis, other old age diseases and from Covid19 (in the recent past). The family is in complete distress. His family needs their son more than ever.

While in Maine Prison, Nadim Haque has been very active & concerned about the problems facing the prison. He has contributed to the Prison & outside community and tried to make qualitative improvement wherever possible. Some of his contributions are

Mentoring prisoners in education & vocational training
Peer educator

Substance use recovery Coach

LD178 has given hope to us. This will give our nephew a second chance so that he is paroled and deported to India and takes care of his suffering family before it is too late.

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

Kind Regards,
Shahina Mahmood