

Jeanne Marquis  
CHINA VILLAGE  
LD 178

Support LD178: An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community.

To: Senator Bebee-Center, Representative Faulkingham and the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. I am writing to you to urge you to SUPPORT LD178, An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community.

I am Jeanne Marquis, resident of China, Maine. In my work with the recovery community and as an advocate for social justice, I have had the privilege to become acquainted with people who have experienced long term incarceration and have worked hard to turn their lives around. Frankly, the environment of jail was not the catalyst for their rehabilitation. They grew despite the environment. They reached internally to find the drive to seek improvements: take college courses, achieve degrees, advocate for legislation or find a spiritual life. They rehabilitated themselves.

When people overcome the behavior that had put themselves into long term sentences, additional time no longer serves a purpose to society. We need to reinstate parole in the state of Maine. It cost \$78,000 to taxpayers per year to incarcerate each person in Maine. When an inmate has proven they have fully rehabilitated themselves, we need to parole them and integrate them back into society as productive citizens.

I urge the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety to support LD178.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Marquis  
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