

Walter Parker  
Warren  
LD 178

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

My name is Walter Parker and I am writing in support of LD 178.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the committee for working tirelessly on this parole bill.

Parole is a privilege, not something granted on personal achievements, but through true inner change.

I have seen quite a few inmates doing the programs that they choose to do, like for example programs like Houses of Healing, Thinking for a Change, AA, NA, Cage Your Rage, and Building a Better Life. And there are a few inmates that I met at the beginning of my incarceration that have changed themselves in their time here for the better. And also, there are some inmates that don't do what they should be doing, they just sit around and play games and watch tv, and think and do all the wrong instead of all the right things that they should be to help themselves, their families, and their peers.

So, when and if parole does come back to Maine, they should look really close at all inmates that have done the time to earn parole and make sure that they have also done what is necessary for them to leave on parole. But there are a few inmates in here doing time that I've met when I first started my time here at the Maine State Prison that I thought would never be considered to be a different person than what they were then. Now, years later, due to the programs and help that they have gotten in here, I am shocked to see them now. For instance, Julian Soto, me and him could not stand each other and he has done a lot of changes in his time here and has been helping me change myself and we now like each other and get along.

I feel that the right inmates can make a difference.

Thank you for taking your time and concern in this matter.