

Gwendolyn Wellman  
Windham  
LD 178

To: Senator Beebe-Center and Honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

Re: Testimony on behalf of LD 178

March 13th, 2023

My name is Gwendolyn Wellman and I am currently incarcerated at Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center. I am writing to show my support for the passing of LD 178. I am a certified Intentional Peer Support Specialist and Recovery Coach, both certified through the state of Maine. This allows me the opportunity to work in the Mental Health field upon my release. These are opportunities that I look forward to that will allow me to help my community.

I believe that if LD 178 was passed, it would allow those who have earned the opportunity to reintegrate into their communities. LD 178 would also help people reconnect with their children. Maine currently spends millions of taxpayer dollars on incarceration. The money could be used for other resources, such as healing communities.

Thank you for accepting my testimony on behalf of LD 178 and I hope to have your support on this bill.

Respectfully, Gwendolynn Wellman