

Testimony from the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition regarding:
LD 178: "An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community"

Sponsored By: Senator Beebe-Center of Knox
Public Hearing: March 12, 2023 at 10:00am

Dear Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

My name is Tobin Williamson and I live in the city of Lewiston, Maine in Androscoggin County. I am the Advocacy Manager with the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC), a statewide network of almost 100 member organizations all working to enhance the lives of Maine's immigrant communities.

It has been almost fifty years since Maine has seen meaningful reform in its parole system. Parole incentivizes rehabilitation and reduces recidivism. Proof of rehabilitation is required for parole, reducing the long-term effects of incarceration for people who deserve a new chance. Additionally, statistics show the minorities receive prison sentences at a highly disproportionate rate compared to the general population. We are hopeful that LD 178 would address this disparity in some way. Finally, LD 178 would lower taxpayer costs that are associated with long-term incarceration.

Therefore, we encourage the passage of LD 178: An Act to Support Reentry and Reintegration into the Community. Thank you for your consideration.

Tobin Williamson
Lewiston, ME
MIRC Advocacy Manager

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