



13 March 2022

Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Jacob Wourms and I'm a Campaign & Research Manager with [Campaign Zero](#), a nationwide research and advocacy non-profit, and I'm writing to ask you to please support LD 178 and parole restoration throughout the state of Maine.

Parole is bipartisan common sense. Regardless of your politics, there's a reason for you to support parole:

1. Human Restoration / Belief in Second Chances
 - a. Parole affirms our collective belief in the restoration and renewal of all things and that people are more than the worst moment of their life. The vast majority of people incarcerated in Maine want to make amends for their wrongdoing and return to their families. We should provide a mechanism for that second chance to be a possibility.
 - b. Parole provides an incentive to rehabilitate. Without it, incarcerated Mainers simply have to "run out the clock" of their sentence and have no motivation to take classes, hold jobs, etc. Parole encourages rehabilitation because the sooner each person is restored to health, the sooner they have the chance to return home.
2. Public Safety
 - a. Studies show that people granted parole are [36 percent less likely](#) to return to prison compared to those who maxed out their sentence and were released with zero supervision. This fact intuitively makes sense – parole prioritizes re-entry plans and support as rehabilitated people return to society. It's far better for all of us when we help support people as they re-enter a society that they haven't been in for a long period of time.
 - b. It's important to remember that crime is a young man's game. Overwhelmingly, crime is something we age out of - it most commonly occurs ages 18-25. Nobody's risk is zero (not me writing this letter nor anyone reading it) but these risk levels decrease drastically as we age. There are far too many aging prisoners in Maine who will not return to a life of crime and simply want to return to their families and friends.
3. Taxpayer Savings / Economic Benefits
 - a. It's incredibly expensive to incarcerate. In Maine, it costs on average \$78,000 to incarcerate one person for one year. Studies show that it's [9 times more expensive](#) to incarcerate someone than to grant parole and place the person under community supervision.
 - b. Additionally, if a person is released on parole, they're able to return to work and add a source of income to their household. The economic benefits are significant – more workers for Maine's economy, fewer kids growing up in poverty, and more families together, providing stable homes for future generations to dream and explore.

Maine wouldn't be the first state to restore parole (Mississippi, 2008). Parole restoration has been done before, it makes sense, and it's sound policy. We urge you to support LD 178 and look forward to future working sessions, deliberation in the House and Senate, and ultimately Governor Mills' signature.

With you in the work for Maine as it should be,
Jacob Wourms

