

Se Mi Anderson  
Windham  
LD 1514

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

Re: Testimony on behalf of LD1514,

April 25, 2023

Honorable members of the legislature,

My name is Se Mi M Anderson, a United States Marine Corps Veteran currently housed as an incarcerated member of Maine's population. I am excited to be writing my personal testimony in favor of LD 1514. I am currently serving my 1st prison sentence and am grateful to be releasing in the next 2-4 months hopefully on Supervised Community Confinement program. With what I have seen with the LD 1514 though very minimal information is displayed establish a positive pathway in the right direction. I can say for those that are incarcerated and trying to release finding housing is near impossible to include finding an available bed at a halfway house, sober house, or even a homeless shelter. The housing and economic rise in both are very prevalent crisis that limits options. Even with current state funding and grants are limited in how much they can help. By creating short-term housing to recently released individuals provides a safe place for a healthy transition and adaptation period that is well needed. Several individuals are incarcerated for a year all the way to life. These sentences carry heavy burdens as well as loss of independence for crimes we may or may not have taken accountability of. Through the years we have been incarcerated we have been molded and shaped by the structures and programs we choose to be a part of and these individuals deserve safety and security for a proper transition. The outside world may look a lot different and even scary for many. Finding the problem such as short-term housing and establishing it is filling a gap that for a longtime has been neglected from oversight. This will implement positive change to reduce recidivism and allow individuals to get the assistance they need to get back on their feet and reestablish what independence is. With LD 1514, this will also improve relations and communications with support and family of incarcerated loved ones to get back to a place of stability. By having places like this established, you can also help rebuild the community and the people that are a part of it in a detrimental way.

“With positive change and second chances, all is possible.”

Semper Fidelis,

Se Mi M Anderson