

Jeffrey Kerr
Farmington
LD 1626

Good Afternoon Senator Beebe Center, Representative Salisbury, and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Jeffrey Kerr and currently I sit on the board of Visitors in Franklin County. In 2017 I was at a meeting where the sheriff recommended that I sit on the board of visitors. I was really honored and thrilled that I could help the people in the jail and possibly my community. I thought this was great. After all my years of being on the board I still was asking myself what am I doing there. I finally came up with the answer to this question. I have a lived experience, both of mental health struggles and of being on the inside of those walls. People make mistakes and then they end up in jail but that does not mean they are bad. What it does mean is they are troubled about something like I was many years ago.

LD#1626 helps people who are being detained know that someone cares and that even though they made a mistake we still care and want to help them.

I just recently went to a jail that was helping the town out by growing food outside of the detention center and helping the town out, I wish that all detention centers were like this. Inmates were always doing something that gave them a reason to live. I urge you to pass this bill so everyone can have a chance at life, I would be happy to take any questions now.

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