

April 24, 2023

Good Afternoon Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and esteemed members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Joint Stand Committee,

My name is Vickie Morgan, I am a resident of Norway and I am here today to testify **in favor of LD 1626 “An Act to Standardize Requirements Between Boards of Visitors for County Jails and Department of Corrections Correctional Facilities”**.

It is important that all County Jails in the State have a Board of Visitors. They serve in an advisory capacity and make regular visits to inspect the facilities and make recommendations on how to better serve the individuals residing in their facilities. The requirements should be the same across all counties and align with the Correctional Facilities.

Some of the important requirements that should be put in place are as follows:

All the members of the Board of Visitors should have lived experience. Using myself as example, I relate better to someone that has had similar experiences as myself.

There should be training developed that all members are required to take. I serve on several boards and there is a huge learning curve in order for someone to become an effective board. This training would help them become better board members.

A list of the Members of the Board of Visitors along with their contact information should be made public and provided to the individuals who are residing in their facilities. Also, the meeting date and time along with the agenda should be posted on their website and a zoom option should be provided, so that the public may attend their meetings.

Members of the board must submit an Annual Report and it should be posted on the website.

In closing, the Board of Visitors provides oversight of the County Jails and their input is extremely important in providing recommendations for improvements that might be made and also they are an important resource for the people residing at their facilities.

In closing, I urge you to **pass LD 1626**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Vickie Morgan*

Vickie Morgan  
Norway