

Ideres Ali
Maine Youth Justice
LD 1779

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety:

My name is Ideres Ali and I am an organizer with Maine Youth Justice. I reside in Lewiston, Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD 1779.

I am a young person in Maine who is currently fighting a case. Personally nothing major has happened because the system sees that I'm well educated and have a lawyer so they can't take that much advantage of me. I see how corrupt the juvenile system is because incarcerated individuals aren't really looked after or checked up on. Having young people locked away isolates them from their communities and causes them more harm than good.

Maine has an opportunity for the young people to see there's people out here that really care for them and will do whatever it takes for them to feel cared for and supported in their development. This bill will develop a continuum of care for youth and the support will be given by trained professionals. A needs assessment will find the root of the youth's suffering and create a plan to meet those needs and keep them out of Long Creek.

I have a vision for my community to get along and limit crime by having community events and resources that everyone contributes too and feels that they belong somewhere. We can build resources with a lot of community service just for the benefit of the neighborhood.

In summary, LD 1779 would give young people a chance to rehabilitate by creating a continuum of care. For these reasons, I request this Committee to vote to ought to pass on LD 1779.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Indi Ali