

Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



Peter M. Lehman, PhD

20 Lawrence Ave.
Thomaston, Maine 04861
(207) 542-1496
Peter@GrowInME.com

Testimony in support of LD 931 to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

January 8, 2024

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

My name is Peter Lehman and I live in Thomaston. I am a formerly incarcerated citizen and a person in long-term recovery.* I am testifying in support of LD 931 on behalf of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition whose goal is to promote restorative practices in order to increase public safety and the health of our community.

Reentry is at the center of the Department of Corrections mission: "Supportive Intervention, Empowering Change, and Restoring Lives." As Commissioner Liberty puts it, "We are in the business of redemption."

As amended, this bill will provide the Department and our community an **OPPORTUNITY** to step back and take a careful and constructive look at reentry and make recommendations about how we can help strengthen these important programs and practices.

Since this happens in the midst of national and local reexamination of reentry the timing is propitious. For example, see the [US Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) programs and especially its extensive materials on the collateral consequences of incarceration.

I hardly need to remind this committee how important successful reentry is to our communities and our State.

We urge you to support LD 931 as amended.

Thank you for your generous attention.

* In the interest of honesty and disclosure, a personal background statement is available on request.