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Maine Legislature.

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BILL: Expand the State's current workforce development program.

Comments by: Richard C. Lumb, Ph.D. (based on wording in the present Bill).

1. CINBRO has demonstrated engagement, entering into an agreement with the Maine State Prison and providing training in welding for soon-to-be-released inmates at the MSP some years back. CINBRO and the Maine State Department of Corrections had a highly successful partnership. CINBRO has experience, willingness, and expertise and should be consulted. Results were certified welders, full employment, and, to my knowledge, no recidivism.

2. Inclusion in the Bill of the Maine Community Colleges is necessary! If they are not on the same page, seamless to the University system (this was the situation, may have changed?), then change it. They have the staff, equipment, and skills to take this on and make it work.

Note: In the 1980s, the 52 NC community colleges and 16 state universities were all compatible with credits and acceptance across the State.

3. The DOC, Department of Labor, Community Colleges, and public/private organizations (e.g., CINBRO) can determine what must be done. Like the Franklin County Adult Education Program at Mt. Blue High School and Technical Center, some years ago, put "at-risk youth" into a wind turbine education, training, and employment program in Maine—which was very successful—public/private partnerships work! And why not? Collaboration of Canadian Company, Maine Juvenile Justice, and the Franklin County Adult Education Program staff.

Bill: #1 Statement. The Legislature, County Jails, and State Prison system should collaborate with private experts in this proposed mental health and substance abuse focus. There are additional issues of birth: parenting, nutrition, and many other research-focused contributors to crime and criminality. Unless addressed as well, spinning tires will not improve these conditions. Responsibility begins with parent/s and getting pregnant, and they cannot be excused at taxpayer expense.

Bill: #2 Statement. The Sheriff or his designee must be part of this discussion, planning, reporting, and input. We have seen separation cause issues to be undisclosed, and the change efforts fail. Twenty residents to one intensive case manager is the maximum if sincerity and conducting one's job correctly is expected. Who will evaluate the case manager?

Bill: #3 Statement. [A] Funding for levels of treatment and use of community-based service, without removal of silos, allowing multiple providers of services to work within their expertise is critical, or the lack of communications, input, addressing needs, and determining sustainable solutions fails. Silos of service often share the same client, but never do they communicate. The exchange of treatment, information, and other positive focus areas is not about the person; it is about the taxpayer funding this and the need to turn the person's behavior around absolutely.

[B] No housing is a sure pathway to failure for many! Service, continual development, evaluation, and someone to pay attention to the individuals to ensure they progress in becoming contributing citizens is a must. Without it, homelessness is a pathway to failure, as research shows.

Bill: #4 Statement. Who are the peer-to-peer mentors? Are they trained? Who oversees to ensure that accurate information is being passed along? It is not the former criminal, substance misuse, or mentally ill person who has the skills, knowledge, training, rules, and restrictions available and who is accountable for their most significant efforts. CAREFUL here!

Bill: #5 Statement. Taxpayers fund all criminal justice costs, including additional care, as the proposed Bill illustrates. The person being helped must be accountable and bear some costs as they turn their lives around. No investment, not much incentive to engage as they should!

Bill: #6 Statement. Tracking and assessment is a specialized function and demands systemwide (to account for duplication, etc.). Persons trained in assessment, research, planning, and other skills are needed. It is not something counties should pay for, as they now pay for all the criminal justice programs, agencies, and costs. They make crime and its correction to productive people, not accountable to the violator. I would reconsider this and make it a state program within an existing agency that adds staff, creates the system to collect data, and maintains standards.

Bill: #7 Statement. Partnerships for planning are a must. Includes specified university programs, expertise from public and private agencies, and others who can help put this together. If not done right, it fails! The concept is right; getting from now to then is critical and must be expedited.

This concept is long overdue and necessary. Recidivism is a measure of failure, and while Maine's recidivism rate is lower than the national rate, it remains too high, meaning repeat costs for the taxpayer. We charge the taxpayer the cost of all human flaws and violations and their fix. We can do better; this Bill is a positive step.

Sincerely,

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