

Megan Marquis  
China Village  
LD 1359

Dear Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,  
My name is Megan Marquis, and I live in China Village, Maine. I am writing today to ask you to support LD 1359.

This impacts me because I see how dehumanizing prison can be in my own family and with the people my family works with. Prison is punishment and our youth don't deserve a life of punishment without rehabilitation. This is where resentencing comes in, which I believe could add more humanity back to our systems. People aren't born evil or born thinking they're going to commit irredeemable crimes- that's learned by the society they grow up in and if our society failed to teach them another way- then we are to blame- not them. We need to take responsibility to fix the systems that put them there and give them a light at the end of the tunnel - that reminds them of their humanity and gives them hope. There's still more work to do in transforming our prisons, but I believe this is a good first step. This would help give hope to youth that was never there before. This would help save lives. and we cannot afford to live in a world where our youth see no light at the end of the tunnel. This is why you should support LD 1359.

Thank you for your time.