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I support bills like this that decentralize and promote community needs and at risk families to reduce incarceration (a welcome change....)

As we sigh with relief at the Chauvin conviction, and reflect on the fact that the verdict shouldn't have been a question, but was, and that George Floyd had been put on trial as much as the murderer, there's a lot of reckoning ahead.

Our entrenched criminal justice bureaucracies, disparate Court systems and jail fiefdoms keep hiring more people into this failed and traumatic punitive system.

We want change and the partnerships and funding for communities from all levels of government and organizations receiving covid money

Stop funding broken system that adds trauma to poor & sick.

Upgrade training culture, Demilitarize,

Update oversight regulations & boards

Set annual targets to reduce arrests & Improve funding/ access to alternate services in the community to help families succeed

US has a punitive system, and a union-protected macho cop culture. Families need help not surveillance. Police and sheriff's, and now new Enforcers- Homeland security and ICE all are part of Incarceration Nation.

Their inhumane practices have disruptive, traumatic results for neighborhood families. At every govt level, funding, budgeting & unions all support this system that:

- That ignores the victim.

- That risks stability of families & communities, making us Less Safe, -That cages mostly poor & sick (75%) & unconvicted poor with a cash bail system, (75% haven't been convicted) with covid there are added traumas & added time awaiting trial

- That has imposed among the most disparate and extended sentences, while removing all parole,

- That punishes social ills & mental illness with jail. -That is not equipped to assess & treat medical conditions or protect prisoners' health, safety & welfare in this

For these reasons, I write to urge this committee to take a strong and courageous stand in support of legislative efforts to shift the default mode of operation of Maine's criminal justice system away from punishment and towards teaching and healing. When a crime occurs it impacts not only the victim and the victim's family and social network, but also the offender, the offender's family, and their social network. In short, the community as a whole. Retribution from outside systems largely precludes the necessary healing work needed for individuals and communities. Alternatively, developing community-based restorative justice and reentry programs builds resilience and fosters healing at all levels, individual and communal.

Specifically, I would recommend the following:

1. Increased investment in community reentry services (mobile case management services, housing search, and employment support services) to reduce recidivism and improve public safety. The Department of Corrections budget is \$421 million. Maine's Incarceration rates are fueled by the epidemic of Mainers suffering with substance use disorder. Investments in incarceration should be coupled with investments in reentry.

2. Increase funding for restorative justice practices especially focused on persons with substance use disorders, youth, and young adults.

3. Increased funding for community liaison roles that respond to mental health and domestic violence. Governor Mills' two-year budget proposes over \$266 million to the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Within the DPS budget is \$127 million for the State Police. Public safety would be improved by diverting some of these costs to community liaison roles performed by community service nonprofits.

4. Create a clear, written plan for Long Creek Youth Development Center to transition youth