

**Testimony in support of LD 449**  
**to the Judiciary Committee**  
February 24, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Sarah Johnson and I am a resident of Sanford.

I am writing in support of LD 449, An Act to Authorize a Court to Conditionally Discharge Certain Criminal Defendants.

This is a restorative bill supporting individuals, families and communities. It defines clear parameters that the defendant must abide by for the period of conditional discharge and requires supervision, and holds the person accountable for their own success. It also makes economic sense, as it costs 7-10 times more to incarcerate a person in Maine than to have them under supervision for the period of conditional discharge.

A person receiving conditional discharge is motivated to succeed and seek help if needed. Knowing you and your family can avoid the severe long-term consequences of a conviction is highly motivating. Some of these consequences include losing employment and the possibility of advancement. A conviction could limit future employment opportunities, licensures and certifications. A conviction could result in losing housing and property, stable medical care, and inflicts trauma on children when a parent is incarcerated.

Allowing a person to demonstrate responsibility and rehabilitation in the community is good for everyone. It is healthy, and may lead a person to more community involvement and support of others.

LD449 focuses on rehabilitation and personal growth, and could turn a potentially disastrous life-altering situation into a watershed experience of significant positive change. The benefits of this bill will reach the individual, their family and community.

The Maine DOC mission statement is “Making our communities safer by reducing harm through supportive intervention, empowering change and restoring lives.” LD449 fully supports this mission.

I hope you will support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson  
Sanford, Maine.