

Amy Hughes
Kittery
LD 1113

My name is Amy Hughes and I am a resident of Kittery, Maine. I'm writing to express strong support of LD 1113, An Act Regarding Fairness in Sentencing for Persons Under 26 Years of Age.

This bill recognizes a critical truth that has been confirmed by neuroscience, psychology, and experience: young people are still developing—emotionally, neurologically, and socially—well into their mid-20s. Their capacity for change, growth, and rehabilitation is profound. Sentencing someone under the age of 26 to die in prison ignores this potential and denies them the opportunity for redemption.

LD 1113 does not erase accountability. It does not guarantee release. It simply ensures that people who committed serious crimes before the age of 26 will have a meaningful opportunity—after serving 15 years—to demonstrate rehabilitation and be considered for supervised community confinement. This is not leniency; this is applying justice in a way that acknowledges science, human dignity, and the capacity for change.

Other states and even the U.S. Supreme Court have moved in this direction, recognizing that life without parole for young people is often overly harsh and constitutionally suspect. Maine has the opportunity to be part of this shift toward a more fair, evidence-based, and humane justice system.

I urge you to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 1113 and help build a system that holds people accountable while still believing in the possibility of second chances.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Amy E. Hughes
Kittery, Maine