

Sarah Harber
Portland
LD 1911

January 08, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Sarah Harber, I was born in the midcoast and am a current resident of Portland. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Alcohol and Drug Counselor and I am writing in strong support of LD 1911, An Act to Automatically Seal Criminal History Record Information for Certain Crimes.

In my practice, I do a lot of community-based work with Latine and low income Mainers in recovery from substance use and healing from trauma. I find that one of the biggest barriers to finding secure housing and employment- which are minimal basic needs that must be met before someone can learn and implement therapies and skills to heal from negative life experiences- is filling out applications for housing and employment with a criminal record. In my experience, many people with criminal records, often incurred during youth, don't even take this initial step because they face the shame of being discriminated against. As a result, it is more difficult for them to get out of the cycle of poverty, support their families or build wealth for future generations. This impacts the health and well-being of many families in our community.

If LD 1911 passes, so many more Maine families will have clearer access to opportunities to support their families and communities, and contribute to the local workforce and economy. People who served their time and paid for their crimes deserve this chance. I urge you to vote "ought to pass".

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,^[L]_[SEP] Sarah Harber^[L]_[SEP] Portland, Maine