

Samantha Moore

Washington county Maine

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Bill LD 1941

My name is Samantha Moore, I was born and raised in Maine. I am currently serving a 2 year sentence in the Maine Correctional center. I spend my day's and night's with some folks who have resided here at MCC for 10 plus years and have much more time to serve. The Maine correctional centers have earned a title 'Maine Model Of Corrections' because of empowering change, normalization, and humanization. Who are the people who made this happen? The residents. If the residents didn't adapt to the environment there would be no "Maine Model." The people making a difference are the people who have spent time within these walls changing their lives. People make mistakes, people also change. I think LD 1941 would be a huge stepping stone to the rehabilitation aspect of the Maine Model of Corrections. To understand action comes with consequence, with consequence comes time, and with time comes change. Individuals who serve a substantial amount of time incarcerated spend time evolving to growth and knowledge. Healing is an active process, not just a passive result of time. Parole is a pathway to opportunity.

The folks here deserve a chance at a life they may have thought there was no hope for all because Maine doesn't give the option for it. If Maine had Parole prisons would not be at maximum capacity, they would not be talking about building more prisons if parole were in place. Parole would reduce the high cost of incarceration instead of adding cost by building additions to already existing prisons.

Parole would give individuals a chance at joining the workforce, providing for themselves or/and families. This would shift from being a tax payer expense to paying taxes. The money wasted on holding folks who deserve to be a free individual could be used in other areas of need. LD 1941 would have a positive impact across the state, with significant benefits. This could be a transformative stepping stone into Maine's history.

Let's give these individuals the second chance that is deserved. Let's be the change Maine needs.