

Good Afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Shane Michaud and I am writing a testimony in support of LD1941, an act to support reentry and reintegration into the community. I am currently incarcerated at Maine State Prison serving a split sentence of 22 all but 9 years. I have six years probation when I go home. I have learned to accept it and manage to cope with what I've done early on. Unfortunately, this has echoed among my family and friends. Some have handled it better than others. I also have two children that have been affected by my absence.

I can't go back and change what I've done but I can change what I do from here on out and intend on making all the right choices including reform and educating myself for the better. It is discouraging at times and I do feel the judicial and prison system drastically needs great reform in many areas, but I believe this is a great first step as I have seen firsthand many individuals who truly do not deserve to be incarcerated, many who have been wrongfully convicted or pled guilty to a crime they did not commit to avoid a harsher sentence had they lost at trial. Many of these individuals have truly reformed and feel great remorse for the victims of their crimes as well as the families affected.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD1941.

Sincerely,
Shane Michaud
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