



### Testimony in Support of LD 1911:

#### *An Act to Automatically Seal Criminal History Record Information for Certain Crimes*

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

My name is Brittany Reichmann, and I serve as the Director of Recovery Friendly Workplace Maine. I am here today in strong support of LD 1911, *An Act to Automatically Seal Criminal History Record Information for Certain Crimes*.

Recovery Friendly Workplace Maine partners with employers across the state to build supportive, inclusive workplaces that recognize recovery as a strength—not a liability. Every day, we work with Maine businesses that are struggling to fill positions, retain employees, and maintain a stable workforce. At the same time, we hear from countless qualified, motivated individuals who want to work but are locked out of opportunity because of a past criminal record.

In Maine, one in four adults has a criminal record. National research consistently shows that a criminal record reduces a job seeker's likelihood of receiving a callback or job offer by nearly 50 percent, regardless of the nature of the offense or how much time has passed. These barriers are even greater for people with felony convictions.

The result is a vicious cycle: people are denied employment and housing not because of who they are today, but because of something in their past—sometimes decades old. Housing instability and unemployment are not just personal hardships; they are public health and economic issues. They are associated with higher emergency department utilization, poorer management of chronic disease, and increased risk of recidivism. When we block access to opportunity, whole families and communities bear the cost.

By creating an automatic, streamlined record-sealing system, this bill would allow eligible records to be sealed once individuals meet clear statutory requirements and remain crime-free for a defined period of time. This reform is not radical. It is practical. It is efficient. And it reflects the values Maine already claims to hold about accountability, redemption, and earned second chances.

I also want to speak briefly from a deeply personal place.

I am not only the Director of Recovery Friendly Workplace Maine. I am also a person whose own criminal justice involvement—including felony convictions—has followed me for years. I have experienced firsthand how a record can overshadow education, work ethic, and personal growth. I have lost opportunities not because I was unqualified, but because of what showed up on a background check.

Despite years of recovery, professional success, and community leadership, my past still comes with me into rooms I have earned my way into.

#### Commented [1]:

@brittany@pinetreeinstitute.org \_ You did a great job! I made some formatting changes and deleted some things that I know will be said by others.

Practice seeing if you can do this in under 3 minutes. If not, I would take out or tighten up the middle part with statistics that will likely be repeated by other speakers and make it more concise.

Let me know if you have any questions.  
Appreciate your vulnerability and advocacy!  
\_Assigned to brittany@pinetreeinstitute.org\_

In fact, four days from today, I will be standing before the Massachusetts Parole Board for a hearing on my petition for executive clemency. That moment is both hopeful and heavy. It represents how long people must wait—and how much they must prove—just to be seen for who they are now.

I share this not for sympathy, but to underscore what is at stake. People can and do change. Recovery happens. Accountability happens. Families heal. Careers are built. But when our laws do not match that reality, we undermine our workforce, our economy, and our shared belief in fairness.

LD 1911 would extend an earned second chance to an estimated 163,000 Mainers. It would help employers fill jobs, help families secure housing, and help communities thrive. Most importantly, it would ensure that relief promised by law is relief that people can actually access.

On behalf of Recovery Friendly Workplace Maine, and the countless Mainers working every day to move forward, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1911.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.