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LD 1941

I urge members of the Judiciary Committee to move LD 1941 forward as "Ought To Pass" for two reasons:

1. It is 9 times more expensive to incarcerate someone than to supervise them on parole. Experts estimate a \$14.7M boost to Maine's economy for every 100 people granted parole.
2. Thousands of people—a disproportionate number of whom are people of color—have been ordered to spend decades in prison, regardless of their rehabilitation, with no chance of a review process. Rehabilitating community members makes us safer, not flat sentences. People granted parole are 36 percent less likely to return to prison than those released with no supervision.

As a Maine resident, property owner, and business owner, I want my tax dollars to help people make better choices and live better lives rather than keeping people in cages with no chance of a review process. Given that Maine has a seriously lacking public defense system, it is likely that many innocent people are behind bars. Let's do the right thing in 2026 and start with positive criminal justice reform.