

Testimony in support of LD 1941 to the Committee On Judiciary
January 8, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee On Judiciary,

My name is Lee Urban, and I reside in Portland. I am writing in support of LD1941, An Act To Implement Recommendations of The Commission To Examine Reestablishing Parole.

I've been a volunteer teaching music at Long Creek Youth Development Center for the past five years. During that time ,I had the pleasure of working with a young man who did a terrible thing when he was 16 - he killed a man - and after two years at Long Creek, at 19 he's now incarcerated at the Maine State Prison, having plead guilty to manslaughter and taken full responsibility for his actions. His life before that was a living hell, and now he is to spend that next 25 years in prison.

I wrote above that "I had the pleasure of working with" him because I know this young man will be a credit to his community. While at Long Creek, he obtained his GED; he took college courses online; he was looked up to as a positive mentor by his peers; with no prior musical experience before being at Long Creek, he learned to play a ukulele and guitar, to write [powerful songs that made me cry, and he was about to apply to the Berklee College of Music online program because he was qualified to do so. But now he must wait 25 years in prison before he can re-enter the real world.

He recognizes he needs to work on his issues, and he is doing that now in the Maine prison system. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that he will be rehabilitated in a relatively short time, but without the opportunity to apply for parole, he must wait 25 years before the world with have the pleasure of knowing him.

I hope you will vote Ought To Pass on LD 1941.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lee Urban

Portland, Maine

