

Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



Peter M. Lehman, PhD

20 Lawrence Ave.
Thomaston, Maine 04861
(207) 542-1496
Peter@GrowInME.com

Testimony in support of LD 1035 to the Joint Committee on Local and State Government April 14, 2021

Senator Baldacci, Rep. Matlack, and distinguished members of the Committee.

My name is Peter Lehman. I live in Thomaston and I am here on behalf of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition to testify in favor of funding the Permanent Commission.

As I testified previously to this Committee, the racial impact of our work and practices are not always clear to us, however well-meaning we may be.

Among other things, the Permanent Commission can provide us with perspective on prospective legislation and also serve to recommend actions moving forward.

The legislature created the "**Permanent** Commission." To make it "permanent" and useful to the people of Maine, it needs to be funding.

We urge you to vote Ought to Pass.

* In the interest of honesty and disclosure, a personal background statement is available on request.