

Maine PRISONER ADVOCACY Coalition



Greetings: Senator Carney, Representative Harnett and Members of the Judiciary

Introductions:

Joseph Jackson, Director Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition

Jan Collins, Assistant Director of Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition

Our Mission:

MPAC's mission is to support Maine's incarcerated citizens, their families, and friends, in their struggle with Maine's criminal justice system. Our purpose is to reduce Maine's use of incarceration by creating a criminal justice system that is ethical, humane, and restorative in nature.

Who we partner with: civil liberties, restorative justice, mental health, drug reform, homelessness, immigrants rights, women's rights, gender equity, disability rights, hospice, victims rights, and others including the Department of Corrections with whom we are in regular contact.

Many of our major concerns parallel those in the 2019 [Justice Reinvestment Report](#) Which is a blueprint for change in Maine's Criminal Justice System:

1. Maine's jails and prisons are filled with people who could be better served in a medical setting.
2. Juvenile Corrections for 20-21 budgeted at almost \$12 million dollars Long Creek for 20-21 budgeted at over \$18 million dollars serving a population of less than 30 children.
3. Maine's Public Defenders Office is understaffed leading to inadequate representation for Maine's poor.
4. Cash Bail represents an insurmountable hurdle for most poor Mainers.
5. Programming in jails and prison, as well as reentry services are lacking leading to high recidivism rates and a cycle of despair.
6. Maine has no parole.
7. Compassionate release for the dying.
8. Covid-19 continues to be a ticking time bomb.
9. The Justice Reinvestment reports indicate a pattern of institutional racism

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ME-Launch-Presentation1.pdf>

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/JR-in-Maine-second-presentation1.pdf>

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ME-Third-Presentation 12.11.19 FINAL.pdf>

Questions - Thank-you for inviting us to speak before the Judiciary Committee.