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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

June 9, 2009

Malory Shaughnessy, Chair
State Sentencing and Corrections Practices Coordinating Council
c/o Kelene Barrows
111 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Neale Duffett, Chair
State Board of Corrections
c/o Kelene Barrows
111 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chairs Shaughnessy and Duffett:

During the 1st Regular Session of the 124th Legislature, the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee heard LD 325, "An Act to Authorize Alternative Sentencing of Certain Prisoners Who Have Served Consecutive Sentences of 20 or More Years." The bill raised a number of constitutional issues surrounding resentencing and was unanimously voted ought not to pass by the committee, but it also led to important discussions about sentencing. The committee determined that it would be appropriate for the Council, working in cooperation with the SBOC and the Department of Corrections, to review the supervised community confinement program to determine if it can be revised to include more clients. The committee would also like the Council, again working with the SBOC and the Department of Corrections, to explore other alternative programs for those who have served long sentences and have been rehabilitated, and also to look at placement options for the elderly and very ill clients.

Again, the committee is both aware and supportive of the need to consider and implement more sentencing alternatives and options to improve the criminal justice system. We ask that

you please review these issues and report back to us your recommendations by January 2010.
Thank you for your work, and we look forward to hearing from you at the beginning of the 2nd Regular Session of the 124th Legislature. Please feel free to contact us or our legislative analyst, Marion Hylan Barr, if you have any questions.



Stan Gerzofsky
Senate Chair

Sincerely,



Arne Haskell
House Chair

cc: Commissioner Marty Magnusson, DOC
Associate Commissioner Denise Lord, DOC
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety