

## Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition

c/o Ron Huber, Weekend Roundtable, WRFR Community Radio,  
20 Gay Street, Rockland ME 04841 [www.wrfr.org](http://www.wrfr.org)  
(207) 594-0721 \*\* (207) 593-0013 call-in line.

3/2311

Mr. Deane Rowland Brown  
SBI# OS01621749 Inmate# 666655  
New Jersey State Prison  
PO Box 861  
Trenton NJ 08625

Dear Dino

This is an update on the progress of our bill LD 690 to reform Mainer inmate transfer, and to ask for your help in getting the best results. On March 23, I and a Maine state legislator Ralph Chapman and the parents of another interstate compact transferred Mainer met with new Maine DOC Commissioner Joseph Ponte. Several things came out of it:

- Ponte seems to be surprised that transfers ever last more than a year (except for personal safety transfers). We showed him the proof. Especially you. He is willing to develop a written return policy that would require that a “case management plan” be prepared in every case, with clear description of how to get returned as quickly as possible. With nobody shipped out long term except personal safety and health transfers.
- Ponte opposes the bill AS WRITTEN. Doesn't like the absolutes, and of sharing what his now HIS power with the courts. He made a counter offer. Ponte agrees that Maine's lack of a return plan for each compact transfer is not acceptable. If the bill requires that every DOC interstate compact decision includes a return plan with measureable good behavior metrics, to bring them home, then he could support it. But not the go-directly-to-court system of the bill.
- What do you think? Can that kind of policy get written? Weaker than the bill, but better than present situation? This is where you come in. If you can come up with ideas on how that policy should be worded, please send them to us. What checks and balances in it to ensure interstate transfers don't just disappear.

Your ideas on what to include and what NOT to include in an interstate compact return policy that we can incorporate into the bill.

What kind of fail-safes in the policy to put an end to Mainers being left out in other states, and their appeals to return ignored or turned down without reason good enough to justify the family-breaking effect of prolonged exile.

- As soon as possible, since we want to get this out by late April at latest. We'll be meeting every week with Ponte or whoever he taps to work on this, so your ideas and facts on what is wrong with the transfer system and how it could be straightened out, will get a serious look, whether plain and simple or complicated.

Please do this if you can, and send it to me at the same address: Ron Huber, WRFR Community Radio, 20 Gay Street, Rockland ME 04841. I'll make a copy and pass Ponte the original. My and your corrections show Weekend Roundtable airs every Saturday 1pm-2pm on [www.wrfr.org](http://www.wrfr.org)

Also If you would re-send an authorization for me and M-PAC to review your files but this time NOTARIZE YOUR SIGNATURE. Ponte won't accept it un—notarized.

Commissioner Joseph Ponte,  
Maine Department of Corrections,  
State House Station # 111  
Augusta ME 04333

DATE

Dear Commissioner Ponte

I am writing to give my informed written consent for Ron Huber and the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition (M-PAC) to review and copy any and all documents held by Maine Department of Corrections pertaining to me that I may disclose under state law. This is pursuant to MRSA 4-A § 1216 "Confidentiality of information". I do not want to review the documents being sought by Mr. Huber of MPAC ahead of time.

Sincerely,

Your name

cc: Ron Huber, Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition

Deane, we're working to get you back to Maine. Help us out by doing these things if you can.

*Ron Huber*

