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**Testimony of Director Roy E McKinney**

**SUPPORT LD 1541  
Increase Sentences Imposed for the Illegal Importation of  
Scheduled Drugs**

Senator Rosen, Representative Fowle, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Roy McKinney, and I am the Director of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA). I am here today to testify on behalf of the Maine Department of Public Safety in Support of LD 1541, An Act to Increase Sentences Imposed for the Illegal Importation of Scheduled Drugs.

This bill increases the penalty for the illegal importation of a schedule drug by one class crime and creates the new crime of aggravated illegal importation.

We all know the devastating impact that heroin and other opioids are having on our communities. MDEA's strategy is focused on disrupting that supply of heroin and other opioids into our state and to protect our citizenry from those who would sell it. MDEA pursues all actionable information of suspected importation assigning the necessary resources to that case while also working in coordination with the Maine State Police to accomplish a successful interdiction. Last year, MDEA increased the number of heroin and other opioid importation cases by a third over the previous year's number. The Department supports this measure as another tool for law enforcement and prosecutors to have available in its effort to combat illegal drug importation.

On behalf of the Department of Public Safety, I thank you for your time and pleased to answer any questions that you may have.