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March 8, 2023

*Testimony of Representative Morgan Rielly in support of*

## **LD 748, An Act to Strengthen the Due Process Rights of Persons in Law Enforcement Custody**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*

Good morning Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary. My name is Morgan Rielly, and I represent House District 127, which includes part of Westbrook. Please accept this testimony in support of **LD 748, An Act to Strengthen the Due Process Rights of Persons in Law Enforcement Custody**.

The Supreme Court in *Vega V. Tekoh* transformed a Reconstruction-era law that is meant to protect the rights of freed slaves and marginalized Americans along with providing redress against state-sanctioned corruption and violence. **LD 748** will amend the Declaration of Rights in the Constitution of Maine to explicitly establish that people have a fundamental right to be notified of their rights pursuant to Article I, Section 6 in order to further protect the civil rights of all individuals. This will ensure, despite the Supreme Court ruling in *Vega V. Tekoh*, that anyone who is placed under arrest, in custody or under interrogation or temporarily detained by law enforcement must be provided with information of the person's privilege against self-incrimination and the person's right to the assistance of legal counsel.

While I am unable to join you in-person during this public hearing, I am happy to address any questions sent to me regarding **LD 748**.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Morgan Rielly".