



MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

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Statement in Opposition to L.D. 1056, An Act Restricting State Assistance in Federal Collection of Personal Electronic Data and Metadata March 29, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished Committee on Judiciary. My name is Charles Rumsey, and I am the Chief of the Cumberland Police Department. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association in opposition to LD 1056.

The Mission of the Maine Chiefs of Police is to secure a closer official and personal relationship among Maine Police Officials; to secure a unity of action in law enforcement matters; to enhance the standards of police personnel, police training and police professionalism generally; to devise ways and means for equality of law enforcement throughout the state of Maine; to advance the prevention and detection of crime; to prescribe to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; and to promote the profession of law enforcement as an integral and dedicated force in today's society sworn to the protection of life and property.

According to the bill summary,

This bill restricts an agency, department or political subdivision of the State from assisting, participating with or providing material support or resources to facilitate a federal agency's collection or use of a person's electronic communications.

We understand that there is a balance between an individual's right to privacy and the public's right to live in a safe community. However, we think that LD 1056 puts too much emphasis on the individual without necessary regard to the public.

One of our missions is to advance the prevention and detection of crime and this would directly contradict that mission. This bill would prohibit us working with our federal partners on very serious criminal matters. For example, matters like school threats, child abductions, and child pornography. These are matters that require close collaboration with our partners in federal law enforcement, and we welcome every chance that we get to broaden our resources so that we can resolve a matter quickly and efficiently. This way the victim finds peace more quickly and the public stays safe from further harm that the person might cause the community.

If passed, we know that this bill would restrict our ability to resolve a threat to the public. We would request that this committee vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1056.

And, on behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, we want to thank the committee members for your work on this Committee.