



Testimony of Maine Press Association

Honorable Anne Carney, Senate Chair
Honorable Amy Kuhn, House Chair
Joint Legislative Committee on Judiciary

Feb. 4, 2025

RE: LD 12 An Act to Amend the Freedom of Access Act to Apply to Legislative Caucuses

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The Maine Press Association supports this legislation.

Comprising 44 print newspapers and digital news sites across the state, the MPA advocates for the interests of open and transparent government.

We believe the public's right to know applies equally to legislative caucuses, just as it does to all proceedings that include the peoples' business.

Negotiations, even conversations, that take place behind closed doors violate the principles of transparency.

Private caucus meetings prevent freedom of access, and constituents are left out of the process. That subverts the very nature of our participatory democracy.

The Maine Press Association urges you to support LD 12.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lynda Clancy, Editorial Director, Penobscot Bay Pilot