



# Maine Sheriffs' Association

*"One Team, One Mission"*

**Sheriff Scott Nichols, President**

Sheriff Troy Morton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Sheriff Scott Kane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Sheriff Barry Curtis, Secretary –  
Sheriff Todd Brackett, Treasurer – Sheriff Dale P. Lancaster, Immediate Past President –  
Sheriff Kevin Joyce, Past President-at-Large - Mary-Anne LaMarre, Executive Director

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February 24, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF  
SHERIFF TROY MORTON  
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

**In OPPOSITION of**

**LD 449 – An Act to Authorize a Court to Conditionally Discharge Certain  
Criminal Defendants**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing on Judiciary. My name is Sheriff Troy Morton, I am privileged to be here on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs Association as their Vice-President.

Maine sheriffs convened last to discuss An Act to Authorize a Court to Conditionally Discharge Certain Criminal Defendants. The Maine Sheriffs Association's legislative policy committee unanimously voted to oppose this bill.

Implementing L.D 449 may potentially reduce the number of individuals incarcerated in our facilities, but it would inevitably put citizens of Maine in harm's way. Some examples of class B crimes in Maine include assault with a deadly weapon, drug trafficking, burglary, and many more. If the defendant 'only has one' class B crime, their criminal proceedings can be discharged for up to six months? A class B crime is a serious felony that can result in up to ten years in a state correctional facility. Who are we serving by implementing L.D. 449? Felons.

Additionally, adding more provisions to Maine's Good Samaritan law is not serving anyone except the defendant of a felony crime. Continuing to pass laws that fail to hold people responsible for their actions isn't working.

Maine sheriffs unanimously ask that you send a message to your constituents that says you cannot look the other way. "Continuing to ignore accountability is not the way life should be".

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

*Our Mission: The Maine Sheriffs' Association preserves and strengthens the office of Sheriff through professional and collaborative leadership with integrity and compassion; enabling Maine Sheriffs to best protect the citizens they serve. Maine's sixteen sheriffs, with over five hundred and sixty-three years of service combined, are unlike other law enforcement professionals as they are elected to serve by the voters of Maine communities. Each sheriff was voted into office to serve their county as the highest-ranking county law enforcement officer. The privilege and responsibility that comes with this role is paramount to all sixteen of us.*

Sheriff Troy Morton  
Maine Sheriffs Association  
LD 449

I will testify in person. Please distribute this attached document to members of the committees and thank you for your assistance.