



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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March 10, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF
SHERIFF SCOTT KANE
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

IN OPPOSITION TO

LD 303 - An Act to Repeal the Law Prohibiting Unauthorized Paramilitary Training

Good afternoon, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety committee. My name is Scott Kane. I am the Sheriff of Hancock County and 2nd Vice-President of the Maine Sheriffs' Association. Maine's Sheriffs are opposed to LD 303 – An Act to Repeal the Law Prohibiting Unauthorized Paramilitary Training.

Maine citizens from various African American and Semitic communities throughout Maine have been frequently terrorized by those who intend to intimidate and bully members of their communities. Individuals who continually exercise their 1st Amendment right of Free Speech often spread fear to fellow Mainers that are individuals of color, or those who practice religions that are perceived to be different than their own. We have seen these groups participate in paramilitary training in years past, and thankfully, the 131st legislature passed language that would prohibit these unacceptable activities.

If you recall, the prohibition came about when a neo-Nazi wanted to create a 'blood tribe' in Maine. The prominent white supremacist behind these activities bought land in Maine with the intent to develop a training facility for his followers. Attorney General Frey noted previously that without this prohibition in statute, there would be no way to charge a person that was using military training with the specific goal of creating civil unrest.

Maine's Sheriffs believe we need to continue to prohibit anti-Semitic and racist activities, and if we remove Sec.1, MRSA Title 25, Chapter 252-B from statute, we are removing critical protections that are in place for the very people who most need them most.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.