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LD 303

To the Members of the Maine State Legislature Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and Concerned Neighbors. I am testifying in opposition to LD 303, An Act to REPEAL the Law Prohibiting Unauthorized Paramilitary Training. To me, it should be clear why Maine would not want to permit, put our seal of approval on, and subject our neighbors to unauthorized paramilitary training in our communities. From Ku Klux Klan attacks on our most vulnerable neighbors to the Proud Boys attack on our federal legislators and indeed the seat of our national government, our people and nation have been bedeviled by paramilitary groups. But it is not only our nation. Throughout the Nazi regime, Adolf Hitler and his administration relied on paramilitary groups to carry out attacks on targeted populations, businesses, and any civilians who did not fall in line with the Nazi agenda. These comparisons are appropriate as many American unauthorized paramilitary groups explicitly identify themselves as white supremacists and NeoNazis. These are fraught times in the United States. One of our President's first actions in office was to pardon convicted criminals - many members of unauthorized paramilitary groups- involved in planning and perpetrating his Jan 6 attack on the Capitol to stop the peaceful transfer of power. In effect he has created a loyal paramilitary proven willing to carry out illegal actions of domestic terror. Today the threat is not only local and national. The current administration is threatening to annex the sovereign nation of Canada. With which we share a 611 mile border. The President and members of his administration are speaking openly of planning for a military invasion. In this context, the this presidential administration is setting up a potential conflict within the U. S. military (as to whether commands for such an invasion would be legal orders) and a potential conflict between the U. S. military, elements of the U. S. military which may or may not agree with the legality of President's orders, and organized State Militias under direction of governors who may or may not agree about the legality of a command to violate Canada's sovereignty and invade its borders. Such conflict is likely to play out in Maine, as it has already in Southern border states, such as Texas. The role of unauthorized trained paramilitary members would be intentionally lethal. Maine ought not promote the conditions to perpetrate violent crime and domestic terrorism, and contribute to national and international armed conflict. This may sound far fetched. But much which sounded far fetched before inauguration day 2025, is now a reality and the law of the land under the current presidential administration. Please vote No on this bill which, by empirical evidence, has predictable outcomes of criminal behavior which will badly impact public safety. Thank You.