

**Testimony in opposition of LD 717
to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

March 15, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Sarah Johnson and I am a resident of Sanford.

I am writing in opposition of LD717, An Act to Amend the Maine Criminal Code Governing Restitution to Include the Costs of All Analyses of Suspected Illegal Drugs.

The title of this bill alone, "Restitution to Include the Costs of All Analyses of Suspected Illegal Drugs" is antithetical to any definition of "justice". Forcing a person to pay for a drug analysis that is negative is an arbitrary fine that we would not allow anywhere else in society. Under what other circumstance would we require a fine to be paid for an expense incurred 'under suspicion' where the suspected offense did not happen? The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution protects individuals from "unreasonable searches and seizures" by the government. While the need for the test itself may not be an unreasonable search, requiring payment for a test that is negative certainly seems like an unreasonable seizure.

I hope you will oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson

Sanford, Maine.