



TESTIMONY OF ALICIA REA, ESQ.  
LD 102 – Ought Not to Pass

**An Act to Notify the Public of Juveniles Who Are Wanted Persons**

Joint Standing Committee on  
Criminal Justice and Public Safety

March 26, 2025

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Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenbus, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, greetings. My name is Alicia Rea, and I am a policy fellow for the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine, a statewide organization committed to advancing and preserving civil liberties guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions. On behalf of our members, I urge you to oppose LD 102.

Decades of research and U.S. Supreme Court precedent support the idea that young people accused of crimes are patently different from adults due to their brain development.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, states treat youth and adults who have allegedly committed crimes differently, including in Maine.<sup>2</sup>

At the core of our legal system is the idea that all people are innocent until proven guilty. Publicly sharing children's information at a time when they are legally innocent could carry long term and detrimental consequences to their reputation, emotional wellbeing, and more.

Maine has already recognized the importance of giving young people the best chance to grow into successful adults by limiting the lifelong burdens that post-conviction criminal records cause, even decades after a person has completed their sentence. Criminal records can derail people from successfully reentering society and contributing to their communities after incarceration. The collateral consequence of having a criminal record can make it more difficult to access housing, cut people off from some public

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<sup>1</sup> See *Roper v. Simmons*, 543 U.S. 551, 569 (2005) (holding that executing juveniles for crimes committed under the age of 18 is unconstitutional); *Graham v. Florida*, 560 U.S. 48 (2010) (holding that sentencing a juvenile to life without parole is unconstitutional); *J.D.B. v. North Carolina*, 564 U.S. 261 (2011) (holding that a child's age must be considered in a custodial analysis for *Miranda* warnings). These examples discuss adolescent brain development as a key reason for holding these sentences as unconstitutional and requiring a different analysis.

<sup>2</sup> See 15 M.R.S. § 3001 et seq.



assistance, federal student loans, and employment.<sup>3</sup> Criminal records can also keep people from being present in their children's lives, far past the expiration of their sentence, for instance when helping chaperone a field trip.

Allowing a child's information to be disclosed to the public would undo significant progress that has been made to achieve the Maine Juvenile Code's goals of rehabilitating children and helping them become thriving members of their communities.<sup>4</sup>

We urge you to oppose LD 102.

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<sup>3</sup> Susan Hawes et al., *Unsealed Fate: The Unintended Consequences of Inadequate Safeguarding of Juvenile Records in Maine Safeguarding of Juvenile Records in Maine* (March 2017), available at <https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1014&context=justice>.

<sup>4</sup> See 15 M.R.S. §3002.