MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

P.O. Box 17642
Portland, ME 04112-8642
(207) 523-9869
mainemacdl@gmail.com

2024-2025 OFFICERS

President
Jeremy Pratt

President-Elect
Matthew D. Morgan

Vice President
Sarah E. Branch

Secretary
Luke Rioux

Treasurer
Justin Andrus

2024-2025 DIRECTORS

Jesse James Archer
Randall Bates
Dylan R. Boyd
Daniel Dubé
Andrew Edwards
Benjamin T. Everett
Kristine C. Hanly
James Mason
Joseph Mekonis
Jennifer Rohde
Robert J. Ruffner
John Steed
Caitlyn Smith
Lisa Whittier

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tina Heather Nadeau

April 7, 2025

Senator Anne Beebe-Center - Chair
Representative Tavis Hasenfus - Chair
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
100 State House Station Room 436
Augusta, ME 04330

RE: LD 1187-- An Act to Require Certain Mental Health Data to Be Included in Uniform Crime Reports

Dear Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

MACDL is neither for nor against LD 1187.

In a vacuum MACDL supports the concept of gathering information on mental health referrals. More information is generally better than less information. In this instance, the information could help us better understand if the State is allocating resources correctly, or if resources should be redirected, and it should give us insight into whether or not increased training and education on mental health is making an impact.

MACDL's trepidation in supporting this bill is the uncertainty about who would have access to the information, exactly what information would be collected, and how that information would be securely stored. MACDL wants to ensure that the privacy interests of those whose data is collected is not abused or made public.

What information is collected is not specified in statute but left up to the State Bureau of Identification to determine. See Title 25 §1544. This means that there could be identifiable personal information that could be collected. And even if the State Bureau of Identification were to testify that they do not collect identifiable information there is nothing in the statute that would restrain them from collecting that data tomorrow.

For the reasons stated above, MACDL is neither for nor against LD 1187.

Sincerely,
/s/
Jeremy Pratt, Esq.
President, MACDL