



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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April 7, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF
SHERIFF KEVIN JOYCE
MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION**

**LD 1187 – An Act to Require Certain Mental Health Data to Be
Included in Uniform Crime Reports**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Sheriff Kevin Joyce. I am the sheriff of Cumberland County and I am here on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs Association.

Your Maine Sheriffs have taken the unanimous position of **OPPOSITION** for LD 1187 - An Act to Require Certain Mental Health Data to Be Included in Uniform Crime Reports

The Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Expansion Act of 2023 was introduced over two years ago in the 118th Congress. The federal initiative was designed to better equip state and local agencies to address extreme risk through a grant program. Funding provided would be used to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies through training to accurately identify an individual who poses a threat to the community. This is important as it acknowledges that currently, law enforcement officers who venture into mental health information are working beyond their scope of expertise.

HIPPA allows healthcare providers to share protected health information, or PHI, with law enforcement agencies under certain circumstances. Law enforcement agencies can use court orders, warrants, subpoenas, and administrative requests. LD 1187, if passed, would create another requirement for law enforcement officers to enter critical data that they've not been trained to decipher or ascertain how to share.

We all want to eliminate the tragic mass shootings that bring bills before us such as LD 1187, but we urge you to carefully consider what you're asking law enforcement officers to document and or share.

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