



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

Sheriff Scott Nichols, President

Sheriff Troy Morton, 1st Vice-President, Sheriff Scott Kane, 2nd Vice-President – Sheriff Barry Curtis, Secretary –
Sheriff Todd Brackett, Treasurer – Sheriff Dale P. Lancaster, Immediate Past President –
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March 31, 2025

TESTIMONY OF SHERIFF SCOTT NICHOLS MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

LD 1024 - An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Scott Nichols. I am the sheriff of Franklin County. I am President of the Maine Sheriffs Association, and I am here on their behalf.

Your Maine Sheriffs have taken the unanimous position of **SUPPORT** for LD 1024 An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance.

Maine sheriffs firmly believe that no one in this room supports individuals that are at the very root of our substance use disorder problems, drug traffickers. We've worked closely with this committee to find solutions for those that are suffering from addiction and require medically assisted treatment to overcome the tenacious grip of drug dependency.

As we researched this bill, we found some very compelling numbers such as:

1. 8.6% of Maine citizens, over the age of 12, suffer from a substance use disorder.¹
2. 20% reported illicit drug use, ages 12 and older.²
3. Maine: 31.8 percent of high school students surveyed said illegal drugs (not including cannabis) were "easy" or "very easy" to obtain.³

We all want to protect Maine citizens who are crippled by substance use disorder, and our collaborative efforts have produced the first year that overdose deaths decreased. Protecting drug traffickers is not helping Maine citizens but rather, it's feeding the chronic cycle of addiction. Please recognize that this bill will help reduce the access to illicit drugs and vote Ought To Pass on LD 1024.

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

¹ Maine Drug Data Hub, <https://mainedrugdata.org/maine-drug-data-hub/maine-drug-data/treatment/>

² State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup, <https://www.maineow.com/illicit-and-prescription-drug-1>

³ National Drug Intelligence Center, <https://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/pubs/657/overview.htm>