

To: The Committee on Judiciary

From: Stephen M. Borst @ Alfred, ME

Re: LD 214

My name is Stephen Borst and I'm a resident of Alfred – in York County. I'm also a 30 year career law enforcement officer, currently serving as a Detective with the Kennebunk Police Department. I'm offering testimony today, regarding **LD 1823 "An Act to Promote Transparency in the Criminal Justice System by Requiring the Posting of Criminal Case Decisions."** This bill requires the Attorney General to post to the publicly accessible website of the Office of the Attorney General the final decision of a criminal case decided within the State within 60 days of the case's final disposition.

Simply put: accountability matters. However, the way it appears now, there is absolutely no accountability by many, if not all, of the district attorney's offices. All too often, cases are initiated by the police and fall into the abyss when the cases are in the hands of the district attorney offices and courts. I know from experience that there is no perfect case for prosecutors but the police in this State are doing their jobs. They are enforcing the laws - but the D/As are dismissing cases, giving plea bargains and deferred dispositions or just ignoring the cases all together citing 'prosecutorial discretion.' This is leaving the police feeling defeated and the victims of crime asking why.

I cannot identify a downside to enacting this Bill. Passing LD1823 would promote transparency on matters involving the safety of our communities and provide important answers to both the police and the public about the cases that enter the criminal justice system.

I implore you to please educate yourselves on the big picture and what passing LD 1823 would mean for Maine's law enforcement community and the citizenry they serve. Please **VOTE YES on LD1823.**

Stephen Borst
Alfred
LD 1823

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