



MAINE BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

mainebcc.com

January, 29th 2026

**Submitted by: Joshua Brister (President) Maine Black Chamber of Commerce (MBCC)**

**Re: LD 2107 – An Act to Establish the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program**

**Position: Opposed**

Good Morning Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Maine Black Chamber of Commerce (MBCC), I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to LD 2107 – An Act to Establish the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program. While MBCC appreciates the intent to promote safety for nonprofit organizations, we are deeply concerned that this bill, as currently written, fails to define equitable criteria for resource allocation, and does not adequately address the very real threats faced by Black American business owners in Maine.

Many Black businesses in Maine encounter heightened risk related to prejudice, discrimination, and bias, yet the general language of this proposal does not prioritize resources for that community most affected by hate, harassment, and racially motivated threats. In today's racial climate, where the fallout from biased actions can directly suppress economic participation, it is critical that any security grant program explicitly centers business owners and not NPO's. Without this clarity, well-intentioned programs risk distributing funds in ways that are not responsive to the lived experiences of the overall Black business community.

Furthermore, MBCC is concerned that LD 2107 lacks sufficient guardrails to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse that commonly emerges in loosely defined grant programs, particularly when oversight mechanisms and accountability standards are not clearly articulated. Maine has seen too many instances where broad grant funds are spent with little transparency or meaningful impact reporting, disproportionately disadvantaging small Black American businesses.

Until these concerns are addressed, MBCC cannot support LD 2107, as it currently stands.

**Sincerely,**

*Joshua Brister*

**President**

**Maine Black Chamber of Commerce**