

My name is Sydney Bubar. I am a resident of Augusta and I oppose this bill as written.

“A person is guilty of unauthorized use of a drone on or over the premises of a correctional facility or jail if the person uses a drone to convey or attempt to convey prison contraband in violation of section 757.” If the proposed bill ended here, that would make sense. It is indeed a violation of the law to deliver or receive contraband, no matter the delivery method.

However, later in the bill the insinuation is made that any and all “unauthorized use of a drone on or over the premises of a correctional facility or jail” would be a Class C crime.

The bill as proposed by Rep. Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft is disjointed and would set a dangerous precedent.

By prohibiting ALL drone usage over correctional facilities and jail via those properly licensed to use them, we would be restricting journalists, reporters, and human rights agencies from being able to obtain information regarding possible human rights violations.

Amid modern-day Jim Crow America and Nazi Germany, we must not allow needless oversight to restrict the people’s constitutional ability to obtain information regarding the treatment of those currently in detention.

I urge those on this committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on the bill as it is currently written.