

Scott Nussinow  
Temple Shalom  
LD 2107

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Scott A. Nussinow  
42 Candleberry Drive  
Auburn, ME 04210

To whom it may concern,

My name is Scott Nussinow, and I am a resident of Auburn. I am also a longtime member of Temple Shalom in Auburn, a member of its Board of Directors, and Chair of its Safety and Security Committee. I am writing to express my strong support for LD 2107.

Temple Shalom is a small Jewish congregation with a significant elderly membership. Safety and security are therefore paramount. Unfortunately, increasing incidents of antisemitic harassment and violence have caused real concern among our congregants, to the point that some have curtailed or stopped attending in-person services and events.

In prior years, we have been awarded Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) funding, which allowed us to strengthen aspects of our physical security. However, over the past year, FEMA reimbursement delays, with no explanation or timeline for payment, have severely constrained our ability to proceed responsibly. As a small congregation with a modest and carefully managed budget, we simply cannot cash-flow these expenses. The result is an untenable choice between delaying critical security improvements or cutting essential programming and operations.

Compounding this challenge, NSGP funds do not allow reimbursement for the use of off-duty Auburn Police Department officers. We have instead been forced to rely on private security guards, which our congregants consistently report as less effective and far less reassuring. This diminished sense of safety has directly affected attendance and participation.

LD 2107 would address these issues by allowing us to engage local law enforcement and pursue other measures that meaningfully enhance safety and confidence within our community. The impact on our congregation would be significant and immediate.

I respectfully urge your support for LD 2107 and thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Nussinow