

**Testimony in support of LD 2176
to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary**

February 10, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Sarah Johnson and I am a resident of Sanford.

I am writing in support of LD 2176 An Act to Create a Right to Judicial Review Under the Maine Civil Rights Act for Persons Erroneously Detained. This bill ensures accountability, and provides a clear statutory right to judicial review under the Maine Civil Rights Act for individuals deprived of their liberty by unlawful detention.

The Maine Civil Rights Act exists to protect each of our civil liberties against state infringement. However, lack of an explicit judicial review results in the unlawful and immoral acts that have been occurring in Maine. Families have been devastated on every level, trauma is causing fear and anxiety in children that will lead to long-term developmental and emotional issues, communities, schools and businesses are being destabilized. All of this is detrimental to public health and public safety.

We need the added clarifications and authorizations provided by LD 2176 providing individuals with direct mechanisms to rectify and make restitution for violations of their rights.

I hope you will vote Ought To Pass on LD 2176.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson
Sanford, Maine