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RACHEL TALBOT ROSS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Wednesday, March 8th, 2023

Testimony of Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross supporting
LD 748 An Act to Strengthen the Due Process Rights of Persons in
Law Enforcement Custody
Before the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Good morning Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and other distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Rachel Talbot Ross and I represent House District 118 which is the Portland neighborhoods of Parkside, Bayside, East Bayside, Oakdale and the University of Southern Maine Campus and I also have the distinct honor of serving as Maine Speaker of the House. I am here today to speak in favor of **LD 748, An Act to Strengthen the Due Process Rights of Persons in Law Enforcement Custody.**

Thank you to Senator Hickman for introducing this bill to ensure that a person who is interacting with law enforcement never lose their Miranda rights.

With the recent United State Supreme Court decision in *Vega v Tekoh*, there is currently an unsettling tone around enforcing the law upon those whose duty is enforcing it upon others. If there are no repercussions, then for bad faith actors that interact with the public - there is no motivation for the people we rely on to keep us safe. Our constitutional rights need to not only written, but respected and practiced. No innocent person shall not be subject to unreasonable searches & seizures, nor should they be held to answer a crime that they have not been found to commit, and nor should they be held captive without a speedy and public trial.

I urge you to vote ought to pass on this critical legislation and ensure that here in Maine our people can seek redress under our country's most important civil rights statute. As lawmakers, let's strengthen the guarantees found in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the people's ability to hold government officials accountable for violating them.

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