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Testimony of Rep. Anne Graham in support of
LD 1100, Resolve, to Modify Security Screenings in the State House and Implement Security Screenings in the Burton M. Cross Building
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Good afternoon Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the State and Local Government Committee. I am Rep Anne Graham and I serve the people of North Yarmouth and Gray. Thank you Rep Stover for asking me to cosponsor this important bill **LD 1100, Resolve, to Modify Security Screenings in the State House and Implement Security Screenings in the Burton M. Cross Building**.

“I brought 1 bullet, I should have brought 2.” That was heard by the clerk and analyst after a heated public hearing of the State and Local Government Committee during the 126th Legislature (2004). It was about road rights and I was the Chair of the committee at the time. They were, understandably, terrified. I asked the presiding officers if we could move the subsequent work session to the State House where individuals would be screened and a capital police officer would attend. In hindsight, this situation could have been avoided if we had adequate security in the Cross Office building.

I now serve on the Health and Human Services committee where we often hear emotional and highly contentious testimony, particularly in this post-pandemic era. In my opinion, all of the legislative committees working in the Cross building will or have already covered material that may attract individuals who are unhappy with our work and may act out with a weapon. Maine is not immune to violence and we must work to prevent it. It is time we move forward and implement stronger security screenings in this building so that our citizen Legislature, and the staff who support them, can continue to do the people’s work for this state.

Thank you for considering this bill. I would be happy to answer your questions as best as I am able.