



Janet T. Mills  
Governor

STATE OF MAINE  
Department of Public Safety  
*Bureau of Highway Safety*  
164 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine  
04333-0164



Michael J. Sauschuck  
Commissioner  
Lauren V. Stewart  
Director

**Testimony of Director Lauren V. Stewart**

**IN SUPPORT OF LD 2041**

**Resolve, to Review Traffic Fatalities Occurring While an Operator Was Under the Influence and Subsequent Prosecution with Respect to Those Occurrences**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Lauren Stewart, and I am the Director of the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and the Bureau of Highway Safety in SUPPORT of LD 2041.

The Department and Bureau's position is that the killing of one human being by another, should be investigated vigorously and to the best of our ability. This fact remains whether the instrument of death is gun, a knife, or a vehicle. The best way to ensure vigorous investigation is to establish best practices. Such best practices are often established via a panel of experts as is suggested here.

Without vigorous investigation, suspects who were reckless or criminally negligent by means of being impaired and who killed someone while operating a motor vehicle may walk free.

Despite our unwavering support for this resolve, we believe that the Department of Public Safety and the Bureau of Highway Safety should be involved in the review panel. We are the agency that is specifically designated to work to change the behavior of individuals on the roadway, and it seems to be an oversight that we are not included in the review panel.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2041 with additional panel membership.

---

Buckle Up. Drive Safely.

---



Office Located At:  
Central Maine Commerce Center  
45 Commerce Dr, Suite 1  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Phone: (207) 626-3840  
Fax: (207) 287-3042