

**131st Maine Legislature**  
**Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary**

**January 29, 2024**

**Testimony of Gerald D. Reid**  
**Legal Counsel, Governor Janet T. Mills**

**Testimony in Support of L.D. 2192, *Resolve, to Ensure That the Independent Commission to Investigate the Facts of the Tragedy in Lewiston Has Necessary Authority to Discharge Its Fact-finding Mission***

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Jerry Reid, Legal Counsel to the Governor, here today to testify in support of L.D. 2192, *Resolve, to Ensure That the Independent Commission to Investigate the Facts of the Tragedy in Lewiston Has Necessary Authority to Discharge Its Fact-finding Mission*.

As we are all well aware, on October 25, 2023, Maine experienced one of the worst mass shootings in American history. In the days following that tragedy, Governor Mills issued an executive order establishing an independent commission for the purpose of determining the full facts and circumstances leading up to that terrible incident, as well as the law enforcement response to it. She appointed seven experts in criminal justice and mental health whose reputations for integrity are beyond reproach, and directed the commission to operate with complete and scrupulous independence, following the facts wherever they may lead. The Commission is chaired by former Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court Daniel Wathen.

The Governor could not, by executive order, grant the commission authority to issue subpoenas to compel witness testimony or the production of documents. That can only be done through legislation. The commission has determined that it may need such authority to fulfill its fact-finding responsibility, and therefore has requested this legislation. This Resolve is modeled after 3 M.R.S. Ch. 27, which outlines the subpoena power of legislative investigative committees. It is designed to provide the commission only with that authority it may require to complete its work, while also protecting the rights of private parties.

Maine people are entitled to a thorough, objective, and timely account of the circumstances surrounding the Lewiston shooting. This legislation will ensure they can receive that. On behalf of Governor Mills, I request your support for L.D. 2192, and would be happy to take your questions.