



MAINE LEGISLATURE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

January 22, 2025

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

We, the undersigned legislators representing most of Hancock County, are writing to express our support for Senator Marianne Moore's LD 16, An Act To Establish Separate Prosecutorial Districts in Downeast Maine. This proposed legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fair and effective administration of justice for the residents of both counties.

Hancock and Washington Counties are vastly different in terms of demographics, resources, and challenges, making it increasingly difficult to manage them as a single prosecutorial district. Hancock County has nearly double the population of Washington County, with a median household income exceeding \$72,000. In contrast, Washington County, while geographically larger, has a median household income of just over \$50,000. These economic and demographic disparities reflect some of the distinct challenges each county faces.

Hancock County benefits from greater access to resources and infrastructure, while Washington County's rural and expansive geography poses unique challenges in delivering services effectively. These differences underscore the need for tailored prosecutorial approaches that address the specific needs of each county.

The strain on the prosecutor's office in this combined district has become increasingly evident in recent years. The current arrangement spreads prosecutorial resources thin, making it challenging to provide timely and focused attention to cases in both counties. Dividing the district would alleviate this burden and allow for a more efficient allocation of resources. Each county would benefit from having a dedicated prosecutor who can address its unique legal and community needs.

We believe that separating the prosecutorial districts will improve the quality of justice, enhance community trust in the legal system, and ensure that residents in both Hancock and Washington Counties receive the focused attention they deserve.

We urge you to vote to pass LD 16. This change is not only logical but necessary to address the evolving and distinct needs of our counties.

Thank you for considering this important matter. We are committed to working together to advance this legislation and to ensure that justice is equitably and efficiently served.

Sincerely,

Senator Nicole Grohoski, Hancock County

Representative Nina Milliken, Blue Hill

Senator David Haggan, Penobscot County

Representative Holly Eaton, Deer Isle

Representative Mathew McIntyre, Lowell

Representative Steven Bishop, Bucksport

Representative Gary Friedmann, Bar Harbor