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March 12, 2025

Senator Anne Bebe-Center - Chair  
Representative Tavis Hasenfus - Chair  
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
100 State House Station Room 436  
Augusta, ME 04330

RE: LD 771 -- An Act to Include Possession of Compounds, Mixtures or Substances Containing a Detectable Amount of Certain Scheduled Drugs to Prove the Offense of Unlawful Trafficking of Scheduled Drugs

Dear Senator Bebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

MACDL opposes LD 771.

This bill would not penalize individuals for the actual amount of amphetamines or methamphetamines in their possession but instead would penalize them for the amount of amphetamines, or methamphetamines, mixed with any substance, even if that substance is not illegal, in any quantity.

To put it another way, if you had 1/1000 of an ounce of methamphetamines and it is mixed with 100 pounds of baking soda, you will be charged with possession of 100 pounds of methamphetamines. This is inherently unfair and absurd. Individuals should be punished for the actual amount of the illegal thing and nothing more. In the scenario that I just described, an individual would be facing a mandatory minimum sentence of 4 years in prison and a maximum penalty of 30 years.

This Statute has no minimum amount for actual methamphetamines or amphetamines nor does it require a minimum percentage or ratio compared to the non-illegal material.

Imagine having one ounce of gold dust and then mixing the gold dust with 100 pounds of baking soda. If you tried to sell the gold dust mixed with the baking soda you would never think you would be entitled to the value of 100 pounds of gold.

This bill should be voted Ought Not to Pass.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Committee on this important issue.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jeremy Pratt, Esq.  
President, MACDL