

*132nd Legislature*  
***Senate  
of Maine***  
*Senate District 31*

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*Testimony of Senator Donna Bailey supporting*  
**LD 2121, An Act to Enhance the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials,  
Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor by Allowing Certain Personal  
Information to Be Remove from Designated Public Records**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*  
*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed Members of the Committee on Judiciary. I am Senator Donna Bailey, and I represent Senate District 31, which includes Buxton, Old Orchard Beach, and Saco. Today, I am pleased to offer testimony in support of Representative Faircloth's bill LD 2121, "**An Act to Enhance the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials, Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor by Allowing Certain Personal Information to Be Removed from Designated Public Records.**"

For those who may not know, I have a long career in public service, spanning over 39 years. At different points, I have been an attorney, a guardian ad litem, a Probate Judge, a State Representative, and – currently – a State Senator. All that is to say, I am familiar with the increased attention, wanted or not, that public officials and those who make difficult decisions that affect people's lives, often receive from the public.

That being said, in January 2024, for the first time ever, I (and other colleagues) received a serious threat via email. This is the first time I have spoken publicly about this incident, but I believe it is important the Committee understand why the bill before you is needed. The subject line of the email read, "You're going to die," and the body text of the email read, "I'm going to kill you and all of your child-raping friends." Aside from the disturbing content of the email itself, just as unsettling was the anonymity of the sender.

Indeed, when I received that email, I did not know the sender – where they lived or who they were – and I did not know what they did (or did not) know about me. This situation left me feeling like I always had to look over my shoulder wherever I went – home, the State House, and everywhere in between.

Now that the case is closed, I'll share with the committee that, as a result of this threat to kill me (and others), this individual is currently serving time in a federal prison.

Some people might be thinking, well, it was one email from one person who is currently behind bars. I wish it were so simple. We are living through a historic moment of heightened political violence. It affects public officials at all levels of government in every state.

Sure enough, just months after receiving the death threat outlined above, I experienced another “first” in my own career: I received a bomb threat to my home. Again, my sense of comfort and security was disrupted on a quiet Saturday morning when the Chief of Police and Deputy Chief of Police knocked on my door and requested permission to sweep for explosives at my home after having received credible information of a bomb threat to my residence.

Shortly thereafter, I received another bomb threat to my home, and I had another visit from the local police to sweep my home for explosives. Following these incidents, I had to install a video security system at my home, where I was concerned not only for my own safety but also for the safety of my family and neighbors.

Let me be clear: It gives me no joy or satisfaction to describe these experiences to all of you. I wish that we still lived in a world in which an email, a letter, or a social media post did not convey the intent to cause serious harm – including death – to a public official. But we do not.

We need to add a layer of protection to the public officials – like you, like me – who are increasingly at risk.

Thanks for your attention, and I would be happy to answer any questions.



**Donna Bailey**

State Senator, Senate District 31

*Buxton, Old Orchard Beach, and Saco*