

STATE OF MAINE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT



VALERIE STANFILL
CHIEF JUSTICE

MAILING ADDRESS:
163 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0163
(207) 213-2951
EMAIL: chiefjustice@courts.maine.gov

Judicial Branch Testimony in favor of 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

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary, I am Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. On behalf of the Judicial Branch, I am asking you to support LD 2121 to help protect our judges and our elected officials.

In 2024 the American Bar Association reported that serious threats against judges have doubled since 2019, with 457 serious threats targeting federal judges across the country in 2023 alone. And keep in mind that federal judges are but a small percentage of the judges in this country. And it is not just threats: judges are being attacked and killed for doing their jobs. Some are attacks at courthouses: in 2024, a Kentucky judge was shot and killed in his chambers. But some occur outside courthouses at judges' homes. As I prepared this testimony, I wrote that "most recently," in 2025 a Maryland judge was shot dead in his driveway. But that is already out of date: I awoke this morning to news that an Indiana trial judge and his wife were shot at their home. In Maine, in recent years there have been a dozen or more serious threats against jurists annually. In 2025, one of Maine's judges spent two weeks in a hotel with the judge's spouse and children because of threats against the judge and the public internet listing of the judge's home address. This danger is here in Maine.

We understand that this legislation will not guarantee the safety of any given jurist or elected official, but it is an important step to protect the security of those who serve the citizenry of Maine.