



March 11th, 2026

Testimony in support of the proposed amendment to LD2176: An Act to Create a Right to Judicial Review Under the Maine Civil Rights Act for Persons Erroneously Detained.

Good afternoon Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Eli Durand-McDonnell, I am from Bar Harbor, and I work as the Policy Director at Maine Youth Power, a youth-led youth movement working throughout rural and suburban Maine to win human dignity, equity and a liveable future for all. Today, I am testifying on behalf of my organization in support of the proposed amendment to LD2176: An Act to Create a Right to Judicial Review Under the Maine Civil Rights Act for Persons Erroneously Detained.

By prohibiting landlords from disclosing a tenant or household member's personal information with the intent to harass or threaten them, this amendment would help tenants in Maine feel safer and more secure in their housing. As young people, renting is often our only choice for housing, as we haven't had time to build our savings for a house or land. Additionally, as the housing crisis hits Maine, finding that apartment to call home (at least temporarily) can take a long time. Word of mouth, Facebook marketplace, Craigslist if you can dodge the scams—all of these avenues need to be tried before finding the right place.

When you finally find somewhere to call your own, you should feel secure in that space, not still unsettled or potentially in danger. You shouldn't have to worry about where your personal information might go and how it might be used. You should be able to trust that it's safe to share your sensitive information with the landlord that holds the keys to your apartment. Obviously I focus on the youth perspective, but this amendment would also protect Mainers that already face increased risk: immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, survivors of violence, low-income renters, and older Mainers.

Once again, I urge you to support this amendment to LD2176: An Act to Create a Right to Judicial Review Under the Maine Civil Rights Act for Persons Erroneously Detained.

Sincerely,  
Eli Durand-McDonnell