

Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

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February 10, 2021

L.D. 58 – An Act To Improve Information Sharing by Criminal Justice Agencies with Government Agencies Responsible for Investigating Child or Adult Abuse

Senator Dechambault, Representative Warren, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

My name is Ken Mason. I am the Sheriff of Kennebec County and here today on behalf of the Maine Sheriffs' Association. Maine sheriffs met to discuss this bill and our unanimous position is to support L.D. 58.

The Maine Sheriffs' Association legislative policy committee reviewed this bill. Expanding the authority of law enforcement to share impactful information with decision-makers on the welfare of a child or incapacitated adult is not only appropriate, but responsible. I can identify few, if any priorities in the office of sheriff that rivals the well-being of our most vulnerable populations.

We commend Maine's Department of Public Safety for recognizing the value in this language modification. Maine's sixteen county sheriffs urge you to support L.D. 58 and pass as written.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Ken Mason o/b/o Maine Sheriffs' Association