

Colleen Brown
Whiting
LD 2121

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,
I am testifying in opposition to LD 2121.

Let me begin by stating clearly: threats and political violence against anyone are unacceptable. No one should be subjected to intimidation or harm because of public service. That is not in dispute.

However, the question before you is not whether threats are wrong. The question is whether taxpayers should fund personal residential security protections and expanded privacy shields for elected officials.

I do not support taxpayer-funded legislative security.

Public office is a voluntary role. It carries authority, influence, and compensation. It should not automatically entitle an individual to publicly funded home security systems or statutory privileges that ordinary citizens do not receive.

Many Mainers face real threats in the course of their work: law enforcement officers, prosecutors, correctional staff, business owners, and private citizens involved in contentious disputes. They do not receive taxpayer-funded residential security upgrades.

If there is a specific, credible, documented threat, law enforcement already has mechanisms to respond. Targeted response is appropriate. Permanent, standing privileges funded by taxpayers are a different matter.

This bill also raises concerns about transparency and consistency. Maine has long valued open government. Recently, this administration paused the issuance of new confidential or undercover license plates to certain federal law enforcement agencies, citing accountability concerns. At that time, expanded confidentiality was not prioritized. If confidentiality mechanisms are viewed cautiously when applied to federal law enforcement, it is reasonable to question why they are now being expanded for state officials. Public policy should be applied evenly and consistently.

Once categories of redaction expand, they rarely contract. Public trust depends on equal treatment under the law, not selective application.

Maine families are already strained by rising costs and tax burdens. Expanding government spending to subsidize personal residential security for elected officials is not a responsible use of limited public resources.

Safety matters. But so do fiscal discipline, transparency, and consistency.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass.

Sincerely,

Colleen Brown
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