

Colleen Brown
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LD 2150

To the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to LD 2150.

This bill represents a serious violation of constitutional principles and a troubling departure from democratic norms. LD 2150 allows state agencies to restrict a person's access to public property, public services, and communication with government before any judicial review occurs. That alone should give this Legislature pause.

Labeling this bill an "emergency" does not cure its defects. Emergencies do not suspend constitutional protections. Due process is not optional, and it is not something the Legislature may bypass for administrative convenience or political comfort.

This is particularly disturbing in light of the Governor's recent State of the State address, in which she spoke forcefully about protecting democracy, the rule of law, and constitutional values. Advancing legislation that allows the government to silence or restrict citizens administratively, without prior court oversight, directly contradicts those stated commitments.

Maine already has laws to address true threats, harassment, and criminal behavior. LD 2150 is not narrowly tailored to those circumstances. Instead, it creates a broad mechanism that allows government entities to act first and justify later, turning constitutional safeguards into afterthoughts.

At a time when independent reporting continues to raise serious concerns about fraud, mismanagement, and oversight failures within state systems, the appropriate response is transparency and accountability. It is not to restrict access, limit communication, or make it easier to push citizens out of public spaces and public processes.

Democracy depends on an engaged public, not a managed one. The right to question, criticize, and persist in seeking answers from government is foundational. LD 2150 undermines that foundation.

I urge the Committee to reject this bill and to uphold the constitutional principles and democratic values that Maine's leaders publicly claim to defend.

Respectfully submitted,
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