



Testimony of Marpheen Chann for Khmer Maine before the
Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary

IN SUPPORT OF
L.D. 2107 An Act to Establish the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program
On January 29th, 2026

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Marpheen Chann, and I am the Executive Director of Khmer Maine, a community organization that serves Maine's Cambodian and Southeast Asian communities, of which there are more than 10,000 who call Maine home.

I am here today because the older generation in our community came to this country to escape violence. They survived the Khmer Rouge. They rebuilt their lives here in Maine. They established temples and community spaces where they could practice their faith and culture in peace. They should not have to fear violence again.

This is not just a problem for other states. Right here in Maine, our Jewish neighbors have received specific violent death threats. Our Muslim neighbors fear coming to mosque for daily prayers. Buddhist temples have experienced break-ins and hateful messages. More than 20 states have already created nonprofit security grant programs to help communities protect themselves. Maine should join them.

L.D. 2107 would create a \$2 million grant program administered by the Attorney General's Office to help religious institutions and nonprofits improve their security. This includes physical security upgrades, security personnel, and other measures to protect against hate crimes and terror attacks.

This bill is about more than buildings. It is about people. Our elders who want to pray in peace. Parents who want to bring their children to religious services without fear. Community members who gather to celebrate holidays and milestones. They deserve to feel safe.

I urge this committee to support L.D. 2107. Our communities should not have to choose between practicing their faith and fearing for their safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marpheen Chann".

Marpheen Chann
Executive Director, Khmer Maine
Portland, Maine