

Susan Dench  
Portland  
LD 2150

Testimony of Susan V. Dench in OPPOSITION to LD 2150, “An Act to Establish Procedures for Restricting Access to State Property, Access to State Services and Communication with or Through State Entities.”

After listening to certain members of the Maine legislature claiming “fascism” at every turn, it almost beggars belief that such a blatantly unconstitutional attempt to restrict one of the most fundamental freedoms under our United States and Maine constitutions is being even considered. Allowing the government to decide it is being harassed by communication or attempts to communicate by citizens or the press appears to be censorship of the highest order, especially considering that Sen. Nicole Grohoski’s bill is dated the same day that Democrats in the legislature attempted to bar Maine Wire reporter Jon Fetherston from entering the House chamber while other media members were allowed in without question.

Firstly, one wonders at the capabilities of government officials who have to be able to order citizens or the press not to communicate with them. If someone is truly threatening, and not merely asking things the government doesn’t want asked, we have criminal laws adequate to the task without this legislation.

Public agencies and officials have to behave like grownups in facing citizens and the press who want to communicate with and question them. This proposed legislation is absolutely disgraceful, not to mention anti-American. I strongly urge the committee to reject it. Thank you for your consideration and service to our state.

Susan Dench, Portland, Maine