

## **Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine**

Augusta, Maine

January 28, 2026

Dear Chair Carney and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine (HHRC), I am writing to express our strong support for LD 2107, *An Act To Establish the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program*.

HHRC works statewide to advance human rights education, combat antisemitism and other forms of hate, and support communities that are too often the targets of bias-motivated harassment and violence. Our programs regularly engage Jewish communities, immigrant and refugee communities, students, educators, libraries, and civic spaces that are open to the public and committed to democratic values. Unfortunately, these are also the very spaces that increasingly face real and documented security threats.

Across Maine, nonprofit organizations serving marginalized or historically targeted populations are contending with rising incidents of hate, intimidation, and threats. Jewish institutions, Muslim communities, LGBTQ+ organizations, restorative and social justice groups, and human rights organizations alike have had to divert scarce programmatic resources toward basic safety measures—often without access to dedicated funding or technical guidance. This reality undermines the collective ability to carry out missions and places both staff and participants at risk.

LD 2107 represents a proactive, responsible, and values-aligned response. By establishing a Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program, the Legislature would help ensure that nonprofits can take reasonable, preventative steps to protect their facilities, staff, and the public without compromising their openness or educational missions. Security enhancements such as cameras, lighting, access controls, and emergency planning are not luxuries; they are now essential infrastructure for many organizations doing public-facing work.

Importantly, this bill affirms that safety and inclusion are not competing priorities. When nonprofits are supported in creating secure environments, they are better able to foster dialogue, education, and community connection, core pillars of a healthy democracy. Preventative investment in security also reduces the likelihood of more costly and traumatic outcomes later, benefiting both communities and the state as a whole.

For HHRC, LD 2107 aligns directly with our commitment to dignity, accountability, and the protection of civil society. Ensuring that nonprofits can operate safely sends a clear message that Maine stands with those working to uphold human rights and reject hate in all its forms. We respectfully urge the Legislature to support LD 2107 and to recognize nonprofit security as a shared public responsibility.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Tam Huynh

Executive Director of the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine