

Dear Chair Carney, Chair Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) New England, I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of LD 2107, "An Act to Establish the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program." I urge the Committee to support LD 2107, which would create a security grant program in the Office of the Attorney General to provide grants to assist nonprofit organizations to improve security needs at their establishments to protect against hate crimes and terror attacks. This is an important step towards achieving safety and security for all who are at a high-risk of targeted hate.

As the leading anti-hate organization in the world, founded in 1913, ADL's mission is "to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment for all." We are a world leader in countering hatred, bigotry, and bias in all forms, and we have organizational expertise and knowledge around the need to protect vulnerable communities.

Authorizing \$2 million for the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program will support critical security measures at faith-based and other nonprofit community institutions. At a time of heightened antisemitic incidents across Maine, these funds are critical to safeguarding our communities and preventing further acts of antisemitism.

Maine has experienced a troubling rise of hateful graffiti on synagogues, bomb threats to religious institutions, and hate mail sent to faith-based centers. According to ADL data, Maine saw antisemitic incidents increase dramatically from 13 incidents in 2022 to 53 in 2023—a more than 300% increase—with incidents remaining elevated at 51 in 2024. This alarming trend underscores the urgent need for enhanced security measures to protect Jewish communities.

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program would provide funding for targeted institutions to take the necessary precautions and security measures to keep their communities safe from extremist threats. These grants would allow organizations to make physical security enhancements, cover the costs of security personnel, and develop safety plans and protocols to ensure that everyone in Maine can feel safe when they worship, study, and spend time in communal spaces. By passing LD 2107 with funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, Maine will be taking a critical step towards protecting its residents amidst an alarming rise in antisemitic and other hate incidents across the state.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Samantha Joseph". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Samantha" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Joseph".

Samantha Joseph

Regional Director

ADL New England