



TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL KEBEDE
LD 2150 – Ought to Pass

An Act to Establish Procedures for Restricting Access to State Property, Access to State Services and Communication with or Through State Entities

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, greetings. My name is Michael Kebede, and I am a policy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine, a statewide organization committed to advancing and preserving civil liberties guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions. On behalf of our members, I urge you to support LD 2150.

This legislation establishes a formal process by which the state and its agencies may restrict a person's access to state property, state services, or communication with or through a state entity. This process replaces an informal and inconsistent current process with a clear framework.

LD 2150 requires that any restriction in accessing state services, property or communicating with the state must be based on a documented factual justification, communicated in writing to the restricted individual, and limited to ninety days unless subsequent action is taken to extend or renew the restriction. After ninety days of restriction, the state must seek to extend or renew the restriction through an already-existing judicial process, the Protection from Harassment process, to ensure neutral decision making.

Prior to this legislation and under current law, there is no standard statutory framework for restricting an individual's access to the state or its agencies. Unwritten authority and informal practices are more dangerous than regulated ones because they are harder to monitor, more difficult to challenge, and applied unevenly.

This legislation will enhance due process for individuals who are restricted from state services, state property, or communications.

We urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 2150.