



Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of Judiciary Committee,

My name is Mary Alice Scott, and I am the Public Affairs Manager at Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP). MANP is a growing membership organization made up of over 1,000 nonprofit members from all 16 counties. For 30 years, MANP has grown to become Maine's comprehensive resource for the tools, knowledge, and connections nonprofits need to be effective and well-run.

We are submitting testimony **Neither For Nor Against LD 2107: An Act to Establish the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program.**

Nonprofits are community-based organizations that serve a charitable purpose. Nonprofits are an important part of civil society. They are often set up to provide a way to channel collective efforts towards social good. They can be shelters for victims of domestic violence, social services for people who are homeless, care for those with mental illness, assistance for immigrant resettlement, group homes, and residential treatment for drug addiction. They can also be a faith-based organization, a community theater, museum, dance troupe, an outdoors group, a youth athletic club, and so on. They all have the right to associate to express their beliefs through their work and activities without fear of security threats or violence.

Nonprofits have experienced property damage, vandalism, graffiti, theft, security breaches and even violent threats because of their missions, or, in the case of faith-based organizations, because of their faith.

This type of grant program is being passed in many other states, [including Rhode Island](#), and there is obviously a need. MANP recognizes that need, and yet we also recognize that there are many other communities and types of organizations that are impacted by hate crimes or the threat of terror attacks. We would urge the committee to support the intent of the bill while ensuring that communities across the state are similarly protected by hate crimes and terror attacks.

When it is time for administrative implementation of the program, we would be happy to give input to the appropriate office about what may be useful when it comes to selection criteria and/or other ways to ensure the appropriations are transparent and beneficial.

Thank you for your time and consideration.