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Testimony of Rep. Lori K. Gramlich presenting

LD 1671, Resolve, To Implement Security Screenings in the State House and Capitol Area Offices

Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and distinguished colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, I am Lori Gramlich, Representative for House District 13, which is the town of Old Orchard Beach. I am pleased to present **LD 1671, Resolve, To Implement Security Screenings in the State House and Capitol Area Offices.**

As we are all painfully reminded on a daily basis, our world has become one which has required all of us to be increasingly vigilant about our safety.

LD 1671 is a simple, straightforward bill that would require the safety mechanisms we have at the State House building to be congruent with the safety mechanisms in the Cross Office Building. Presently, there are no safety protocols in the Cross Office Building.

Both buildings are accessible to the public, with Cross also serving as office space for several departments. Additionally, Cross serves as the meeting space for at least nine different legislative committees.

Specifically, LD 1671 directs the Commissioner of Public Safety to implement security screening procedures for individuals entering the Burton M. Cross Building within the capitol area, including limiting the number of public entrances, requiring individuals entering the building to undergo a security screening and prioritizing security screenings for certain individuals.

LD 1671 also directs the Legislative Council to adopt rules to make certain changes to the security screening procedures for individuals entering the State House, including requiring all

Legislators and legislative employees to undergo a security screening and prioritizing security screenings of certain individuals.

As a citizen legislature, we encourage Mainers to come to the State House to weigh in on issue affecting them. LD 1671 is a step toward doing all that we can to assure that, when citizens come to both the State House and the Cross Building, they can do so with a sense of security.

I strongly urge you to vote unanimously to pass LD 1671. Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions for you.