

Hello,

Honorable Members of the Committee on State and Local Government.

My name is Alicia Collins. I am a citizen, registered voter, a selectman in the town of Sidney, and a member of Maine's largest conservative PAC – The Dinner Table.

I am speaking today in opposition to LD 2167, An Act to Develop Maine's Economy and Strengthen Its Workforce by Establishing an Office of New Americans, the taxpayers in this State can't afford another office to study a problem.

I visited my sister in Portland in October. I asked her if she wouldn't mind taking me past the homeless encampment, because I wanted to see if it truly existed (FAKE NEWS). I also wanted to see how large it was.

She said, "Sure sweetie (she's my older sister). Which one do you want to see?"

I said, "How many are there?"

She said she was aware of one under the bridge and one by the highway (I-295). And, she said, "There's a bunch of them sleeping around the city. Maurice (my nephew) kept seeing one guy laying out on the street and finally bought him a sleeping bag."

We drove past both.

I noticed a Portland police cruiser and at least one officer at each location.

Now, the numbers: the average pay for a Portland police officer is \$60,000 per year. Two police officers, for 24 hours, 7 days a week costs the city approximately \$9,700 per week.

Now this bill is looking to add a director, staff, and a 19-member advisory board. What is the financial cost of this bill for the citizens of Maine?

The recent article from MMA, "Maine's Homelessness Crisis," indicated, in January of 2023, there were approximately 4,258 people experiencing homelessness in Maine.

Why aren't we using our resources to take care of our citizens?

Our Constitution was set up as a Representative Republic.

Before my time is up, I want to ask this committee a couple rhetorical questions.

Don't you care about your constituents? Do you think it is fair for non-citizens, who do not have a part in our tax system, to drain the resources of our towns & cities?

Thank you for your time,

Alicia Collins, Citizen and registered voter