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April 11, 2021

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Maeghan Maloney and I am the elected District Attorney for Kennebec and Somerset Counties. I am writing today in SUPPORT of LD 231, An Act to Establish Open Primaries.

I support semi-open primaries because I support voting. It's that simple. I want as many people as possible to vote in as many decisions as possible. Democracy can only function when everyone has a voice.

Roughly 1/3 the people of Kennebec and Somerset do not belong to a political party. This means their voice on the candidates is not heard until the general election. They are not alone. Under current Maine law, 32% of registered voters are being silenced. Our friends and neighbors who are unenrolled are prohibited from participating in taxpayer-funded primary elections simply because they opted not to join a political party. Often the reason they do not want to join a political party is because they believe there are good ideas in both parties and that compromise is important. Our democracy would be made stronger by allowing them to exercise their right to vote.

I strongly urge you to join the 80% of Maine voters who support semi-open primaries and to vote in support of LD 231.

Thank you for your consideration,

/s/Maeghan Maloney

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