



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and esteemed members of the Criminal Justice Committee,

Good morning. My name is John Andrews and I represent Buckfield, Hebron and Paris in District 73 located in the foothills of western Maine. I am here today to speak as a co-sponsor of LD 1278 "An Act To End the Maine Information and Analysis Center Program".

"Thoughtcrime was not a thing that could be concealed forever. You might dodge successfully for a while, even for years, but sooner or later they were bound to get you." – George Orwell '1984'.

The year may be 2021, but we continue to find ourselves moving towards a perpetual Orwellian 1984. The Maine Information and Analysis Center is evidence of that. Americans were not meant to live in a cage bound by their own government to only exist to pay taxes and be spied upon in the name of security. The Bill of Rights restricts government power and its endless quest for expansion. In fact, the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Amendments all protect American's inherent right to privacy. Furthermore, the 9th Amendment doubles down on American's right to privacy even outside of the Constitution:

"The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

American's rights to privacy are explicitly clear and fundamental. They always have been and that has not changed. Having a state-run, mass surveillance operations center whose activities can neither be confirmed nor denied is a danger to all of our civil rights. We must push back and keep government power in check. We do not need illegal databases of law-abiding gun owners or secret data collection of citizens living within the law. Security should never be weaponized against American citizens. It

must never be a binary choice between liberty or security - because if it is then we will have neither.

Federal, state and local government agencies working together to amass surveillance, data mine and track Social Media traffic against unaware and lawful citizens is wrong, illegal and dangerously close to the “You show me the man, I’ll show you the crime” of the dark days of Stalinism.

On top of that - why is the Maine Information and Analysis Center feeding this intelligence to corporations and their executives? Especially when that intelligence, often times illegally collected, is on potential political opponents. Opponents who are exercising their 1st Amendment freedoms of association and free speech only to have them usurped by the omnipotent surveillance state. The Maine Information and Analysis Center is an illegal espionage Frankenstein sewn together from top-down governmental intelligence agencies that operate unbound. This monster should never have been brought to life.

I realize that I will probably be on a ‘No Fly’ list for the rest of my life and can expect an IRS Audit after this testimony, but it’s the right thing to do because Fusion Centers are the wrong thing for a free people in a Constitutional Republic. This is especially true of MIAC in the state of Maine.

I urge you to please protect our sacred liberty, privacy and American birthright to be secure in our persons, houses, papers, effects and against unreasonable searches.

Please vote ‘Ought to Pass’ on this landmark bill.

Thank you for your time and commitment to public service.

Respectfully,

John Andrews
State Representative
District 73

John Andrews
Maine Legislature

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