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**Maine State Legislature**  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

April 18, 2023

Members  
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0100

RE: Testimony in Support of LD 1007 (HP 643) *An Act to Ban the Video Hosting Service TikTok on All State-owned Devices.*

Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and Honorable Colleagues:

It's an honor to submit this testimony in support of my bill, LD 1007, *An Act to Ban the Video Hosting Service TikTok on all State-owned Devices.*

Following the introduction of this bill title, the Administration directed executive employees to remove the TikTok application from their work devices, and any personal devices connected to a state network. This was the right thing to do, and I commend them for taking this action. Unfortunately, this doesn't go nearly far enough.

The consensus of the intelligence community is overwhelming: TikTok isn't just a video-hosting mobile application, it is a clear and present danger to our national security, and the executive, judicial, constitutional, and legislative employees who use this application on their work devices are endangering not only their own privacy, but the confidential records that are maintained by the State on behalf of the thousands of people and businesses who deal with state agencies and departments.

In order to recognize the need for this legislation, we must fully understand the scope and breadth of TikTok's corporate turpitude.

In an effort to suppress critical articles and internal leaks, TikTok admitted to tracking the personal, physical movements and IP addresses of individual reporters covering the technology industry, and in doing so, they demonstrated not only their capacity, but also, perhaps more importantly, their capability, to do the unthinkable. They are now under federal criminal investigation for this appalling breach of privacy.

TikTok has told the world that they have no compunction about collecting information about specific individuals and then proceeding to use that information for nefarious purposes.

But this is not the extent of my concern: TikTok is owned by ByteDance, which is based in China and subject to Chinese law.

Companies based in China are required to turn over documents and records upon request of the Chinese Communist Party, and if TikTok has the capability to surveil journalists, then we have no reason to believe they can't or won't spy on State employees, and covertly collect the confidential information of our constituents.

In one loud voice, the current and previous Presidential Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency, and the Director of National Intelligence, are all telling Americans to delete this application.

This legislation would direct all state employees to do just that, because we must do all in our power to prevent this dystopia from infiltrating our networks and endangering the confidential information of Maine citizens.

Thank you for your time, I would be happy to take any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Carlow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nathan Carlow  
State Representative