

# The Maine Independent Commission to Investigate the Facts of the Lewiston Tragedy

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January 28, 2024

Senator Anne Carney  
Representative Matthew Moonen  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Testimony in Support of LD 2192

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary,

My name is Anne Jordan, and I was appointed the Executive Director of the Maine Independent Commission to Investigate the Facts of the Lewiston Tragedy (the Commission) on November 21, 2023. The Commission is charged with conducting an independent investigation into the facts before, during and after the horrific incident that took the lives of eighteen innocent individuals and caused physical and emotional harm to hundreds more. The Commission is committed to following the evidence, wherever it may lead, to ensure that all the facts are gathered and analyzed.

I come today at the direction of Chair Daniel Wathen and the members of the Commission to speak in favor of LD 2192. If passed, it will give the Commission the authority to issue subpoenas and to compel persons to attend and testify or produce records.

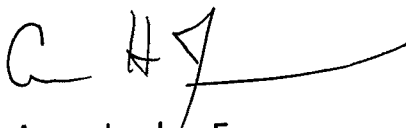
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At the first meeting of the Commission, the Commission voted unanimously to request that Governor Mills and Attorney General Frye seek such authority from the Legislature. At that meeting, the Commission anticipated that there would be individuals and or entities that would be reluctant, or would refuse, to testify absent a legally binding order to appear.

As the Commission has undertaken its investigation, it has encountered several individuals who have either refused to appear or who have been directed not to voluntarily appear by their superiors. Other situations have arisen where persons have refused to turn over records in their possession absent a legally binding order.

A subpoena to appear and testify, or to produce records, would permit the Commission to gather the necessary facts and evidence to fulfill its solemn mission. Without such power, there will be scores of unanswered questions and missing information. The final report will be incomplete. The victims, their families, the residents of Lewiston and the people of the State of Maine deserve to learn the full truth. We urge you to pass LD 2192 and give the Commission the tools it needs to complete its mission.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Jordan", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Anne Jordan Esq.

Executive Director