



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Craig Hickman  
Representative Anne-Maria Mastraccio  
Government Oversight Committee  
c/o Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability  
82 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0082

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Mastraccio, and Members of the Government Oversight Committee,

I respectfully request an investigation by Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) into the protection from abuse by the Department of Corrections (DOC) of individuals living in the Maine State Prison System. Specifically, we ask OPEGA what steps have been taken by the DOC to ensure that prisoners are protected from abuse by Title 34-A.

This request is prompted by my own visit to the facility, in Windham, where at least one biological male inmate (resident) was observed in female residents' areas, and a letter to the Maine Wire from a resident claiming harassment and intimidation.

Per the resident, Katie Mountain, she was exposed to a male cellmate who threatened her with remarks, "Don't worry; if you don't wake up, I smothered you with a pillow," and was at one point assaulted in the bathroom; "pushed back to the wall" and a forced kissed was placed on her face twice.

According to Maine Revised Statute (Title) 34-A, Chapter 3, subchapter 1, §3031. Rights, section 6, "any person residing in a correctional or detention facility has a right to: **Protection from abuse.** Protection against any physical or psychological abuse;"

We, the undersigned, believe an investigation will ensure the rights of residents in the Maine State Prison system are protected, and residents are safe from harm.

Respectfully,

/s/ Alicia Collins  
State Representative

/s/ Susan Bernard  
State Senator

/s/ Tracy L. Quint  
State Representative

/s/ Stacey K. Guerin  
State Senator

/s/ Shelley Rudnicki  
State Representative

/s/ Marianne Moore  
State Senator

/s/ Tammy L. Schmersal-Burgess  
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/s/ Katrina J. Smith  
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/s/ Kimberly Haggan  
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/s/ Rachel Henderson  
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/s/ Laurel Libby  
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/s/ Shelia A. Lyman  
State Representative

/s/ Reagan L. Paul  
State Representative

/s/ Jennifer L. Poirier  
State Representative

/s/ Kimberly J. Pomerleau  
State Representative