



MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0003

January 21, 2026

Honorable Matthea Daughtry, President of the Senate
Honorable Ryan Fecteau, Speaker of the House

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Recently, Secretary of State Shenna Bellows announced her office is suspending the issuance of new confidential license plates for federal law enforcement vehicles as authorized under Title 29-A §517. Despite public remarks by the Secretary of State, it appears this suspension applies to all federal law enforcement agencies, not just those involved in enforcement of federal immigration statutes.

The U.S. Marshals Service District of Maine, a federal agency dedicated to support the judicial branch, including the execution of federal court orders, providing security for the judiciary, managing federal prisoners and apprehending fugitives, was denied confidential license plates by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles last week. Given the agency's work with state and local law enforcement through the Maine Violent Offender Task Force to apprehend criminals such as the Oklahoma fugitive arrested Jan. 9 on a child exploitation warrant, the agency highlighted just how dangerous this suspension is and how Maine stands alone in taking this action.

"This is a drastic change from historical precedent that gives us great concern," Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Ryan Guay told the Portland Press Herald. "We often do sensitive investigations or deal with protected persons, and we don't want to advertise that they're affiliated with us."

This unilateral decision will put law enforcement and the public in danger. The Secretary has made it clear: Her actions serve only to make federal law enforcement officers – regardless of agency or mission – easily identifiable for the purpose of disrupting their lawful operations.

Maine's constitutional officers hold a unique role under our state's constitution. While they are members of the Executive Branch, they are elected by the Legislature. This method grants our constitutional officers great independence and authority without the usual checks of statewide elections or accountability to the elected governor. The only check on our constitutional officers is the Legislature itself; and it is our duty to hold these individuals accountable for their actions in office.

We respectfully request that the Legislature consider all measures to hold the Secretary accountable for her actions including, but not limited to, the establishment of a special investigative committee or impeachment proceedings.

It is our duty as legislators to hold Executive Branch officials, including constitutional officers, accountable for their actions in office. We look forward to your attention to this matter, which, if left unchecked, will unnecessarily put Mainers and our federal law enforcement partners at undue risk.

Sincerely,



Senator Trey Stewart
Senate Republican Leader



Representative Billy-Bob Faulkingham
House Republican Leader



Senator Matthew Harrington
Assistant Senate Republican Leader



Representative Katrina Smith
Assistant House Republican Leader