

Emergency Petition to the Legislatures of New England

Protect the People, Communities, Public Safety, and Future of New England

We, the undersigned, respectfully petition the legislatures of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut to immediately examine the effects that sustained institutional litigation by national public interest organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), has on the people, governments, and future of New England.

We believe New England is facing a period of extraordinary pressure. Many residents have expressed serious concerns regarding election integrity, unlawful migration, organized crime, human trafficking, violent crime, public safety, community stability, emotional well-being, declining confidence in government, and increasing coercive pressure upon state governments through prolonged institutional litigation. We believe these concerns deserve immediate legislative attention, public hearings, and decisive action.

We request the immediate establishment of legislative hearings to examine the cumulative effects of repeated constitutional litigation on state sovereignty, election administration, immigration policy, criminal justice policy, judicial resources, taxpayer expenditures, and the authority of New England states to carry out laws enacted by their elected representatives. We believe the people of New England deserve a complete public accounting of the long-term effects these legal actions have had on our states and the degree to which repeated litigation has influenced public policy through financial and legal pressure.

We further request a comprehensive public audit of taxpayer expenditures associated with constitutional litigation brought by national public interest organizations during the past ten years. The audit should identify attorney fee awards, settlement payments, outside counsel expenses, Attorney General litigation costs, agency staff time, administrative expenses, and any other public funds expended in defending or resolving such litigation. The completed audit should be released as a public report so taxpayers and legislators may fully understand the financial impact of institutional litigation upon the governments of New England.

We ask legislators to examine the historical litigation records and public policy positions of national public interest organizations that have significantly influenced New England law. We also request a review of the cumulative effects that repeated institutional litigation may have upon public confidence, cultural continuity, community cohesion, emotional well-being, election administration, public safety, and the ability of states to respond to the needs of their residents.

We respectfully request that lawmakers review existing laws governing litigation funding, attorney fee awards, public reporting, institutional litigation practices, and transparency in litigation affecting state governments. We encourage reforms that increase transparency, strengthen accountability, discourage objectively frivolous litigation, promote responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources, and preserve the authority of states to defend laws enacted through the democratic process.

We further request that New England establish a permanent legislative review commission to study the long-term effects of institutional litigation upon state government, public expenditures, election administration, public safety, and community well-being. The commission should issue regular public reports and recommend legislative action where appropriate.

We support legislation that strengthens election integrity, public safety, government accountability, transparency, responsible use of taxpayer funds, and the authority of New England states to govern according to the Constitution and the laws enacted by their elected representatives.

The people of New England deserve safe communities, secure elections, accountable government, confidence in public institutions, and the opportunity to preserve the history, traditions, and character of their states. We respectfully request immediate legislative action to protect the long-term safety, security, and future of New England.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Cowdrey

August 3, 2026

Portland, Maine

Maine Legislature

General Contact Form

<https://legislature.maine.gov/contact>

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Office page:

<https://mainelegislature.org/senate-offices/office-of-the-secretary-of-the-senate>

Find every Maine legislator's email

<https://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/MemberProfiles/ContactYourLegislator>

New Hampshire General Court

Official Contact:

<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/>

House Contact:

<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/>

Senate Contact:

<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/>

Massachusetts Legislature

General Contact

<https://malegislature.gov/StateHouse/Contact>

Find every legislator

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Vermont General Assembly

Official Contact

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/contact-us/>

Legislator Directory

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/all/2026>

Rhode Island General Assembly

Official Contact

<https://www.rilegislature.gov/Pages/contact.aspx>

Legislator Directory

<https://www.rilegislature.gov/representatives/default.aspx>

Senator Directory

<https://www.rilegislature.gov/senators/default.aspx>

Connecticut General Assembly

Official Contact

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/contact.asp>

Find Your Legislator

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Legislator Directory

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- Every Speaker of the House
- Every Senate President
- Every Judiciary Committee member
- Every Elections Committee member
- Every Attorney General
- Every Governor