



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

John DeVeau

P.O. Box 431
Caribou, ME 04736
Residence: (207) 484-8993
John.DeVeau@legislature.maine.gov

May 18, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue
NW, Washington D.C. 20530

Attorney General Barr,

We extend our sincere gratitude to you for your April 27, 2020 memorandum to the Department of Justice. That communication serves as a welcome and timely reminder that elected officials should be monitored to ensure they continue to respect the American system of government and the constitutional protections afforded every citizen even in times of crisis.

We write today to bring your attention to certain edicts implemented by Maine's Governor, Janet Mills, by executive order in response to public health concerns related to COVID-19. We fully recognize the many unknowns that existed just over a month ago and the need for reasonable executive action in the face of a potentially devastating public health emergency. However, we are deeply concerned that Governor Mills has exceeded her executive authority in violation of both the Maine and United States Constitutions and continues to implement similar policies without authority or justifiable cause.

For your reference, below is an abridged list of specific concerns followed by a supplemental addendum page with citations.

As of today, Governor Mills has:

1. Drawn an arbitrary distinction between "essential" and "non-essential" businesses, forcing thousands of Maine companies to close or severely limit their ability to engage in commerce, and causing immeasurable damage to our state's economic viability. This order infringes on a citizen's right to equal protection and private property in conflict with the 5th and 14 amendments to our US Constitution.
2. Denied Maine citizens their right to assemble by forbidding gatherings of ten or more persons, raising 1st amendment concerns respecting assembly and religion.

3. Interfered with the ability of citizen's right to private contracts in conflict with Article 1, Section 10, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

These violations show a clear violation of Title 18 U.S.C. Section 242 and we ask that your office investigate and find that charges are warranted against Governor Janet T. Mills.

We appreciate your time and attention to our concerns and stand ready to support you and your staff if you need any further information from Maine.

Respectfully,

Representative John DeVeau
District 149

Representative Chris Johansen
District 145

Representative Rich Cebra
District 68

Representative Larry Lockman
District 137

Representative William Faulkingham
District 136

Representative Josanne Dolloff
District 115

Representative Joel Stetkis
District 105

Representative Sherman Hutchins
District 131

Representative John Andrews
District 73

Representative Dwayne Prescott
District 17

Representative Justin Fecteau
District 86

Representative Bruce Bickford
District 63

Representative Shelley Rudnicki
District 108

Representative Abigail Griffin
District 102

Representative Beth O'Connor
District 5

Representative Jeff Hanley
District 87

Representative Heidi Sampson
District 21

Representative Dan Costain
District 100

ADDENDUM – Citations

- 1. Executive orders that affect the rights to equal protection on and private property, (5th and 14th Amendments) (PDF) - 3/24/2020**

[Executive Order 49: An Order to Stay Safer at Home \(PDF\)](#)

Executive Order 19: An Order Regarding Essential Businesses and Operations

[Executive Order 19-A: An Order Extending the Effective Date of Executive Order](#)

[19 Fy 19/20 \(PDF\)](#)

- 2. Executive Orders affecting the right to assemble and free exercise of religion (1" Amendment) (PDF) - 3/24/2020**

Executive Order 14: An Order to Protect Public Health (PDF)

Executive Order 19: An Order Regarding Essential Businesses and Operations

[Executive Order 19-A: An Order Extending the Effective Date of Executive Order](#)

MARCH 31, 2020

[19 Fy 19/20 \(PDF\)](#)

Executive Order 28: An Order Regarding Further Restrictions on Public Contact and Movement, Schools, Vehicle Travel and Retail Business Operations (PDF) -

Executive Order 28-A: An Order Updating Executive Order 28 Fy 19/20 (PDF) -

- 3. Executive Order impacting private contracts (Article 1, Section 10, Clause 1, U.S. Constitution)**

[Executive Order 34: An Order Establishing Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in Maine \(PDF\)](#)

- 4. Press release announcing the creation of the Economic Recovery Committee (Article 1, Section 10, U.S. Constitution)**

[Executive Order 51: An Order Establishing the Economic Recovery Committee](#)