

Maine Credit Union League

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In Opposition to **LD 61: An Act to Regulate Employer Surveillance to Protect Workers** Committee on Labor *February 5, 2025*

Good Afternoon, Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and distinguished members of the Committee on Labor,

My name is Krista Simonis and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs at the Maine Credit Union League. The Maine Credit Union League is the trade association for Maine's 48 credit unions and over 750,000 members statewide. We respectfully submit the following testimony **in opposition to LD 61**.

Credit unions across the state rely on security cameras, entry logs, and other control mechanisms to ensure that our facilities, staff, and the deposits of 750,000 Mainers are always safe and secure. We agree that Mainers deserve to feel safe in their workplace; just as they deserve to feel that their deposits are safe within their financial institutions.

We appreciate the changes that have been made to this bill since last session, and agree that employees deserve to know when an employer is using surveillance.

However, in part 3 of the bill the restrictions on audiovisual monitoring in an employee's residence would prevent our credit unions from being able to offer flexible remote work arrangements that some credit unions now rely on. Technological innovations have enabled credit unions to provide more services and jobs to those in the most remote parts of this state, including providing virtual tellers and video services. If LD 61 prevented surveillance in these situations, these options would be impacted.

In addition to being a security concern, the private right of action represents a significant risk to credit unions. As member-owned financial cooperatives, the risk of civil penalties and attorney's fees, each of the credit union's members would be forced to bear the cost of any legal action, so it is in their best interest to minimize liability to the extent possible.

Maine credit unions are proud to employ some of the best people across the state. Credit unions pride themselves on creating positive workplace environments, and frequently receive yearly recognitions as Best Places to Work in Maine. We understand that the intent of this bill may be to protect employees from surveillance in their homes, but without an exemption for the surveillance necessary for the safety and security of credit unions and their members, we must oppose it at this time.

The League would support an amendment to exempt financial institutions from this legislation. We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our members to transact their business, and to providing a secure, <u>flexible</u>, and empowering workplace for our employees.



The League thanks the committee for hearing our viewpoints and we would urge the committee to vote ought not to pass on LD 61.

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