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LD 1783

As a current member of the Maine Army National Guard, and one who has tracked this issue from the time I transferred from Pennsylvania, I fully believe that LD 1783 should be passed. While I see a sea change in the Guard since coming back on duty in September, the recommendations of the Advisory Council will build towards an institutional embrace, not just the near-term action we've seen as a result of the publicized details of recent investigative reporting.

I only have one suggestion with regards to the legislation, and that is within Sec. 4. 37-B MRSA §390-D. It is very important to note that "full-time member" of the National Guard holds a variety of connotations. A federal technician, while wearing a uniform full-time, can only be placed on leave by state law while serving on their drill weekends or other state duty. While it's unlikely, other full-time Guard members on "Active Guard and Reserve" status may actually be on Title 32 status. Additionally, there are "short tour" full-time positions known as Active Duty for Operational Support, Reserve Component (ADOS-RC) that can be either Title 10 or Title 32 status. It may be important to clarify, as this law could not apply to Guard members in a Title 10 or federal employment status.