

JUD
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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE, 2nd Regular Session

THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Testimony of Dana Connors

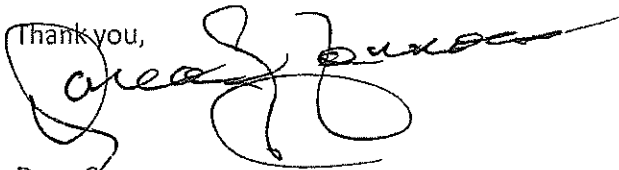
LD2214 An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

Senator Rotundo and Representative Sachs distinguished members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

Nonprofit legal service providers play a crucial role in ensuring access to justice for individuals who cannot afford private legal representation. These organizations provide vital assistance to a wide range of vulnerable populations, including the elderly, victims of abuse, individuals facing financial fraud, and immigrants seeking legal status. By offering free or low-cost legal services, these providers help level the playing field, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to defend their rights and access the legal system, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Beyond the immediate benefits to the individuals they serve, nonprofit legal service providers also contribute to the overall economy. By resolving legal issues for those in need, these organizations help prevent further financial hardship, protect against exploitation, and promote economic stability. Additionally, these providers help address root causes of legal issues, leading to a more just and equitable society. In this way, the work of nonprofit legal service providers not only benefits individuals but also has broader societal and economic impacts.

Supporting nonprofit legal service providers is not only a matter of compassion and social justice but also a wise investment in the economy. By ensuring that all individuals have access to legal representation, regardless of their financial means, these organizations help protect the rights and well-being of vulnerable populations while also promoting a fair and prosperous society for all and making Maine a great place to live.

Thank you,

Dana Connors