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LD 496

👉👉👉 TIME TO TESTIFY! 👉👉👉 A bill that could help find missing people like my disabled son Graham Lacher has been scheduled for a hearing! Anyone can testify in support of this bill; you do not have to be a resident of Maine.

You can show support for LD 496 in person at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 26 in Room 436 at the Maine Statehouse. If you can't be there, you can testify via zoom by signing up at this link: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

Or you can submit comments BEFORE March 26 by using the online form at: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

***** YOUR TESTIMONY CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS COPYING & PASTING THIS INTO THE ONLINE FORM:**

Maine should do all that it can to alert the public of a missing, vulnerable person. Silver Alerts should be immediate in the case of a person already identified as being vulnerable—a patient receiving psychiatric care, a resident of a group home, anyone diagnosed with cognitive dysfunction. These alerts should be publicly promoted until the person has been found. And they should be sent to agencies most likely to interact with a missing vulnerable person, such as first responders, hospitals, and those who provide services to the homeless. Please pass LD 496!

***** IF YOU HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN A MISSING PERSON SEARCH, CONSIDER ADDING A PARAGRAPH DESCRIBING WHAT YOU'VE DONE, SUCH AS:**

I have personally tried to help find a missing person myself by (CHOOSE ANY THAT APPLY) posting flyers to alert the public/gathering contact information so that agencies most likely to interact with the missing person could be alerted/going out in the field to search/volunteering to view camera footage. Many members of the public are like me, and we need the state to help as much as possible.

***** ATTACHED SCREENSHOTS WALK YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK IN COMMENTS OR VIA MESSENGER.**

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!! ❤️👉👉👉❤️👉👉👉❤️👉

PS: If you are able to testify in person, I'm happy to make the 20 paper copies to hand to the committee's clerk on the day of the hearing. Just send them to me via Messenger.

AND: Just in case it's easier than using the screenshots, here is a short list of directions:

CLICK ON LINK:

<https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

1. click on Public Hearing
2. click on "Select Committee" & scroll down to Criminal Justice and Public Safety
3. click on "Choose Date" & scroll down to Mar 26 2025 9:30 AM
4. click on LD 496 under "Choose a bill"
5. type comments in box that says "enter testimony below" & then fill out all the boxes with your contact information
6. check box that says "I am not a robot" & click on "Submit/Register"

SUMMARY OF LD 496:

This bill amends the provisions of law governing the Silver Alert Program to clarify that a person reported missing from a group home, mental hospital, psychiatric ward or other facility or division of a facility providing inpatient mental health services in the State is automatically considered a missing endangered person and a Silver Alert

must be issued for that person.

The bill requires that Silver Alerts be issued immediately to all police departments statewide and to all hospitals, homeless shelters, soup kitchens and public libraries in the State within 24 hours. When a person who is the subject of a Silver Alert is not located, the alert must be reissued after 2 weeks and every 2 weeks thereafter.