



19 Community Drive · Augusta, Maine 04330 · (207) 622-7501 · Fax: (207) 623-3590

Testimony in Support of LD 1117 (“An Act to Strengthen Maine's Workforce Through Certified Preapprenticeship Training Programs”)

J. Andrew Cashman on behalf of the Maine Association of REALTORS®

April 1, 2025

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Joint Select Committee on Labor, my name is Andy Cashman. I am the Founder of Resolve Government Relations. We represent the Maine Association of REALTORS®, a professional trade association established in 1936 with over 6,500 members statewide. REALTORS® protect private property rights, build Maine communities, and grow our state’s economy. Our members represent buyers and sellers involved in both residential and commercial real estate transactions. Our membership also includes industry affiliates, such as lenders, closing agents, title agents, appraisers, building inspectors, surveyors, etc. The Maine Association is chartered by the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), the largest trade association in the country.

The Maine Association of REALTORS® supports LD 1117. The bill would provide that preapprenticeship training programs may use grants from the Maine Apprenticeship Program to cover costs associated with membership fees, tools and personal protective equipment among other expenses. As the oldest state in the country, it is essential that we create avenues for job growth within the trades industry for the next generation. There is no shortage of jobs for construction-related trades as Maine struggles to create more housing. The shortage of tradespeople is but one cause for substantial delays in construction. We cannot solve the housing problem without building and renovating more homes. To do that, we need skilled tradespeople, many of whom begin their careers through apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs. This proposal is one way we can support growth opportunity within our trade programs.

We support this bill because it provides solutions to a multitiered problem. Maine needs more skilled workers contributing to the creation of housing and LD 1117 would do this by enabling more programs to be eligible for grant funding. It would increase opportunities for prospective tradespeople to learn their trade. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1117. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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