

TESTIMONY OF
Joel Allumbaugh, President & Chief Executive Officer
The Allumbaugh Agency
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
May 5, 2025

**L.D. 1649 “Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Operations of
the Legislature”**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. My name is Joel Allumbaugh; I am the President & Chief Executive Officer of the Allumbaugh Agency, a full-service employee benefit agency specializing in the design and administration of employee benefit plans. Our customers are Maine small businesses and their employees. I also serve as a Board Member of the Maine Jobs Council. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of LD 1649, *Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Operations of the Legislature*.

I have worked across both the public and private sectors in Maine – as a small business owner, a health policy advocate, and as someone deeply committed to improving how we develop and implement public policy in this state. As such, I have witnessed firsthand the long-term challenges Maine is facing: an aging population, a shrinking workforce, and economic and demographic rankings that lag behind most of the nation. If we are going to reverse those trends, modernizing and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the way we govern is just as important as the policies we pass.

The Legislature today is asked to address increasingly complex issues with limited time, support, and sometimes outdated institutional processes. The way we currently operate often leaves little room for proactive, data-driven policymaking. In many cases, lawmakers are forced to react to problems rather than prevent them.

We need a legislature that is better equipped to make long-term, strategic decisions. That means reviewing structural inefficiencies here in Maine, studying what is working in other states, and making evidence-based recommendations for reform. Whether it's evaluating the overall structure of the legislature, improving access to nonpartisan research and analysis, or using modern technology to streamline communication and collaboration—there is no shortage of opportunities to improve.

As President & Chief Executive Officer of the Allumbaugh Agency and a Board Member of the Maine Jobs Council, I know firsthand how better infrastructure—whether in health data or economic policy—can lead to better outcomes. The same holds true for how the legislature functions.

This bill is not about partisanship or process for its own sake. It's about ensuring that the Maine Legislature is equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century, serving the people efficiently and effectively, and enabling a more prosperous future for our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joel Allumbaugh