



PORTLAND
Regional Chamber of Commerce

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Testimony in Support of LD 1805-An Act to Establish a Post-conviction Review Process for Crimes Committed by Victims of Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
May 12, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

As CEO of the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce, I am proud to express our unwavering support for L.D. 1805, “An Act to Establish a Post-conviction Review Process for Crimes Committed by Victims of Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation.”

This bill is a vital measure that acknowledges the profound damaging impact of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation on victims, and it provides a necessary pathway for justice and healing. By establishing a post-conviction review process, we are taking a significant step towards rectifying the injustices forced onto these individuals and enabling them to reenter and enhance our workforce.

The importance of L.D. 1805 cannot be overstated for several reasons:

1. **Justice for Victims:** This bill recognizes that many victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation are coerced into criminal activities. Allowing them to seek post-conviction relief acknowledges their victimization and provides a chance to overturn unjust convictions.
2. **Support for Rehabilitation and Workforce Development:** Victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation often face immense challenges in rebuilding their lives. This legislation offers hope and support for their rehabilitation by removing the barriers posed by criminal records. **This bill is crucial in Maine as we continue to struggle to develop and retain a good workforce. By enabling these individuals to clear their records, we open doors to employment opportunities, allowing them to contribute positively to our workforce.**
3. **Economic and Social Benefits:** By facilitating the reintegration of victims into the workforce, we not only benefit the individuals but also address the pressing need for skilled workers in Maine. **This bill helps to fill job vacancies and supports local businesses by providing access to a broader pool of potential employees.**

LD 1805 is one step to ensuring that victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation are not further punished for actions that were a direct result of their victimization and helps support their reintegration into the workforce. We commend the Maine Legislature for considering this crucial bill and urge the committee to support its passage. By doing so, we can demonstrate our commitment to justice, compassion, and the well-being of all members of our community, while also addressing the workforce challenges faced by our state.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Quincy Hentzel".

Quincy Hentzel, President & CEO