

## **DRAFT 2: ORAL TESTIMONY (Summary Sheet)**

**Instructions:** Print this single page. Place it on the podium. Do not read it; just glance at the bold headers to stay on track.

**BILL:** LD 2067 (Community Response Workers / 1998 Special Plan) **NAME:** Jon Becker **ROLE:** Community Response Worker (16 Years)

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- I have spent **16 years** on the front lines of Maine's crisis system.
- I am asking you to support **LD 2067** to fix an unfair gap in our retirement system.

### **2. THE DOUBLE STANDARD (Parity)**

- You already passed **LD 579** for *institutional* workers (Riverview/Dorothea Dix).
- **The Inequity:** I do the *exact same job*, but I do it in **living rooms**, not hospitals.
- They have backup and panic buttons. **I walk in alone.**
- If it's dangerous enough for the Special Plan in a secure unit, it's dangerous enough in the community.

### **3. THE "MORAL INJURY"**

- The danger isn't just physical assault; it is the **cumulative mental toll**.
- **Story:** My team supported a client for a year who was violent and aggressive. The system failed him, and he eventually died from a preventable choking incident we had warned about.
- We carry the weight of those tragedies. That stress accumulates over 25 years.

### **4. THE HUMAN COST (Why this matters)**

- **It Changes You:** This job follows you home. The hyper-vigilance affects our families and our personalities.
- **Burnout:** I am staying, but I watch talented people leave because the emotional cost is too high.
- **Conclusion:** Please finish the work you started with LD 579. Treat all front-line crisis workers with the same dignity.