

TO: Senator Tipping, Representative Mastraccio, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor FROM: Cecillia MacMillan, Crisis Response Worker DATE: January 20, 2026 RE: Support for LD 2067: An Act to Include Certain Community Mental Health Workers Under the 1998 Special Plan

Senator Tipping, Representative Mastraccio, and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Cecillia MacMillan, and I am a Crisis Response Worker. I am writing to you today to urge your support for LD 2067.

When people ask me what I do for work, they are always fascinated. But that fascination comes from the fact that this is a hard, difficult, and dangerous job. Deep down, people know that someone has to support these valuable members of our community, but they rarely see the reality of it.

I am happy to tell them the truth. I tell them about being screamed at and dodging items thrown at my head. I tell them about the times I have had to lock myself inside an office and call for backup because a situation escalated beyond control.

I tell them about a recent restraint that didn't go perfectly, where I had to move quickly to avoid a foot in my face. It made contact, but I was fortunate I am still young enough to "pull those moves off" and recover. The stories of crisis intervention are never dull, but they are often unbelievable to those on the outside.

Right now, I am young enough to move fast and be on my game. Like my peers, I have the ability to let these violent moments go, smile, and move on with my day. However, we must be real: we won't be fast forever.

As the years pass, I question what will happen to my career and my safety as I age. Under the current system, I face the prospect of working until 65 or closer to 70 before I can realistically afford to retire.

I cannot imagine going toe-to-toe with a man a foot taller and 100 pounds heavier than me as an older woman. Even if my spirit is still strong even if I am still tough and determined my body will be slower, tired, and worn down.

The 1998 Special Plan exists to recognize jobs where physical capability is tied to safety. We cannot wait until we are injured or "worn down" to be granted this recognition. Please support LD 2067 to ensure we can retire with dignity and safety.

Respectfully,

Cecilia MacMillan