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President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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**Testimony of Senate President Mattie Daughtry in support of
LD 2102, “An Act to Clarify and Strengthen the Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee
Program”
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services
January 27, 2026**

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23, including Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. I am honored to testify in favor of LD 2102, “An Act to Clarify and Strengthen the Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program”

Last session, I was thrilled to serve as a cosponsor to Representative Mathieson’s bill, LD 874, establishing the Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program. This program is about more than paperwork—it is about providing a lifeline to Maine families who dedicate their careers to public service. It creates a safety net for our federal employees, so that should the government shut down for an extended period of time these employees can still get by.

Just a year ago when we established this program, we did not anticipate going into the longest federal government shutdown in history just days after the law took effect. During that shutdown I received firsthand accounts from constituents on how the cessation of federal salaries. Families were forced to choose between paying rent or utilities, covering mortgage payments, or putting food on the table as they missed paycheck after paycheck. That experience gave us the opportunity to see the needs of our community members during a prolonged shutdown first hand.

With the ongoing uncertainty in federal funding and the very real possibility of another government shutdown looming at the end of this month, the stakes are high. This bill is in direct response to the lessons we learned last fall, making needed changes to the loan guarantee program. It strengthens the program by clarifying who qualifies for assistance, ensuring that more employees in need can access the program, and by specifying the situations in which the Finance Authority of Maine may temporarily suspend honoring loan claims. These clarifications make the program more effective, accessible, and responsive for those it is meant to serve. Maine federal workers cannot be left vulnerable to financial hardship caused by circumstances beyond their control.

I urge this committee to pass LD 2102, “An Act to Clarify and Strengthen the Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program.” This is a practical, commonsense measure that would protect hardworking Mainers and strengthen our state’s commitment to those who serve the public everyday from the worst impacts of a future government shutdown.