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Testimony of Representative Jessica Fay presenting

LD 666, An Act to Support Community-based Volunteer Organizations

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Good morning Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and distinguished members of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee. My name is Jessica Fay, and I represent House District 86, which includes Casco, Frye Island, Raymond and Part of Poland. I am here before you today to introduce **LD 666, An Act to Support Community-based Volunteer Organizations**.

A few years ago, a friend involved with a local theater group and I were chatting about whether they should formalize their organization. She had tried to find some technical assistance with this question and wanted to better understand how to go about becoming a non-profit organization. This group has put on some fantastic performances in our area. They are really good at theater, but had little experience in whether or how to formalize their organization.

There are many supports available for existing non-profit organizations and for small-business start-ups, but where does a small volunteer community-based organization go for assistance if they want to formalize their organization?

This is the question that the Hon. Patrick Corey asked me when he called me last fall and said he had an idea for a bill.

Just yesterday a friend posted on social media that she was looking for information about creating a 501-C3. I wanted to reply, but I wasn't sure where to send her. As I have had conversations in the lead up to crafting this bill the theme seemed to be "that's a great idea, I think such and such might be helpful" and then I'd call the suggested group on the list and they would suggest I reach out to some other group. It occurs to me that this is exactly why we need to create a well-publicized place for volunteer community-based organizations to go for technical assistance as they decide how to best serve their community.

I hope the committee finds this a worthy policy for DECD to implement. Volunteer community-based organizations provide some of the glue that holds our districts together. They help feed, clothe, entertain, and care for our communities and nurturing them is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with the committee to find the right solution to this problem.