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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



HEATHER JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER

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Testimony of Victoria Foley

Neither for nor against LD 666

An Act to Support Community-based Volunteer Organizations

Good morning, Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. My name is Victoria Foley and I am the Legislative Affairs and Communications Liaison for the Department of Economic and Community Development. I am here today to testify neither for nor against LD 666 An Act to Support Community-based Volunteer Organizations.

The Department does not currently provide direct technical support to businesses or nonprofit organizations in their start-up phase. Instead, our team works to connect these groups to resources that already exist in the community to assist: places like the Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and SCORE.

DECD also administers pass-through funding from the Legislature to SBDCs each year in the amount of \$700,000 for the purpose of supporting small business founders and owners.

For individuals interesting in starting a nonprofit in our state, the Maine Association of Nonprofits has an online resource available.

That said, the Department appreciates the challenge of adding a program that is outside our current realm of expertise. We are happy to work with the bill sponsor to find creative solutions – which could include things like pass-through funding as we do for SBDC, or online tools to connect individuals who are interested in starting a volunteer-based nonprofit with information about the steps to take.

This concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.