



Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and members of the State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Mary Alice Scott, and I am the Public Affairs Manager at the Maine Association of Nonprofits. MANP is a growing membership organization made up of over 1,000 nonprofit members from all 16 counties. For 30 years, MANP has grown to become Maine's comprehensive resource for the tools, knowledge, and connections nonprofits need to be effective and well-run.

I am testifying in support of LD 2167: An Act to Develop Maine's Economy and Strengthen Its Workforce by Establishing an Office of New Americans, for the purpose of improving the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities to strengthen the economy over the long term.

We are very appreciative of the work and thoughtfulness that has gone into this effort by many elected officials, individuals, organizations, and administration staff members. We are particularly grateful to GOPIF and to members of the nonprofit and philanthropic community who contributed their time and expertise.

In particular, MANP supports the effort to create an Office of New Americans in order to effectively welcome immigrants and refugees to Maine, streamline supports and services needed to thrive, and to alleviate challenges associated with the workforce shortage, and to build strong and inclusive communities.

As you all know, nonprofits are vital to Maine's economy and quality of life. We employ 1 in 6 Maine workers and mobilize more than 400,000 volunteers each year. Most Maine nonprofits are very small and community-based. 88% have annual budgets less than \$500,000, and 61% have a budget of less than \$50,000.

While you are almost certainly familiar with the workforce shortage that faces the entire state, you may not realize that the nonprofit sector has a workforce shortage of its own.

In 2023, MANP and other state nonprofit associations across the country participated in a survey conducted by the National Council of Nonprofits around the nonprofit workforce shortage. Nearly three out of four nonprofits (74.6%) completing the survey reported job vacancies. More than half of nonprofits (51.7%) reported they have more vacancies now compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic, and nearly three out of ten (28.1%) have longer waiting lists for services.

"Collectively, the data confirm that nonprofits are still enduring a shortage of employees, and as a natural consequence, the public continues to suffer because fewer employees mean reduced capacity, longer waiting lists for services, reduced