



Mark W. Lawrence  
Senator, District 35

THE MAINE SENATE  
131st Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Testimony of Senator Mark Lawrence In Support of  
LD 2113, *An Act to Provide Relief to Federal Employees Affected by a Federal Shutdown*  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial  
Services**

**March 7, 2024**

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Mark Lawrence. I proudly represent five towns in southern York County that make up Senate District 35. I am here today to testify in support of LD 2113, "*An Act to Provide Relief to Federal Employees Affected by a Federal Shutdown.*"

My district is home to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Many of my constituents work there and enjoy the good-paying, union jobs that help support our national security infrastructure. However, when Congress can't get its act together, which happens more often than not, the livelihoods of my constituents are at risk.

This bill would help keep food on the table, rent and mortgage bills paid, and the heat and lights on in the event of a federal government shutdown. These proposed no-interest loans would serve as a much-needed vital lifeline.

I had the pleasure of meeting with workers from the Shipyard today, who are here as part of Labor Lobby Day. They shared these concerns with me and the real-life impacts that policy decisions, or indecisions in Congress' case, can have. These workers have our back day in and day out, it's time we show them the Legislature has theirs.

I urge the Committee to support this legislation, and thank President Jackson for presenting this important bill.