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Testimony in Support of L.D. 209, An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Aaron Frey and I have the privilege to serve as Maine's Attorney General.

There are three initiatives relating to the Office of the Attorney General("OAG"), which may be found on page A-8 beginning at the top of the page.

The first two initiatives, found under the ADMINISTRATION – ATTORNEY GENERAL heading, relate to the Director of Victim Services position in the OAG.

Initiative one would transfer one research assistant MSEA-B from an Other Special Revenue account to the General Fund. This position is currently supported by Victims of Crimes Act ("VOCA") federal funding. The availability of these funds is compromised and are insufficient to maintain this position. At the same time, the need for this position continues as it has greatly improved the delivery of victim witness advocacy services throughout Maine.

The second initiative seeks legislative approval of a Bureau of Human Resources approve reclassification.

A third initiative, found under the CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER – OFFICE OF heading, request funding to support the increased costs associated with toxicology expenses. I understand the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will be providing information relating to this request.

Thank you for your time and attention, I would be happy to answer any questions.

