



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Kenneth W. Fredette BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

February 12, 2025

L.D. 265, "An Act to Prohibit the Maine National Guard from Combat Deployment Absent an Act of the United States Congress"

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Representative Kenneth Fredette. I serve District 33 representing Dixmont, Etna, Newport, Plymouth and Corinna.

While I am honored to serve as a Member of this grand institution known as the Maine House of Representatives, I am also honored to serve as a Colonel in the Maine Air National Guard. This is a choice that I not only made once, but twice as I became an active member again as a result of the attack on the Twin Towers on 9/11.

The dual role that National Guard members is unique in our country, in that we serve both a national role and a state role. As such, we also have two bosses, or Commander's in Chief, today being President Trump and Governor Mills.

For the most part, a member of the Maine National Guard will generally spend most of their military career, in state, gaining skills and performing mission essential functions, both state and federal.

With all due respect to the sponsors of this bill, in my opinion, this bill would devastate that role, and as a result, put at risk, literally hundreds of millions of dollars, and risk long term damage to our perception as a partner in our blended military infrastructure.

I strongly urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Fredette
State Representative

District 33 Dixmont – Etna – Newport – Plymouth - Corinna