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Testimony of Representative Michael Brennan presenting

LD 408, An Act to Allow Unaccompanied and Emancipated Minors to Access Their Vital Records At No Cost

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Good morning, Representative Meyer, Senator Ingwersen, and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Michael Brennan, and I represent House District 115, which includes a portion of Portland.

Today, I am here to introduce **LD 408, An Act to Allow Unaccompanied and Emancipated Minors to Access Their Vital Records at No Cost**.

LD 408 requires the state registrar to make available the vital records, including birth certificates, of an unaccompanied and emancipated minor to the minor at no cost.

Unaccompanied and emancipated minors in Maine can have difficulty accessing their vital records due to the cost. This measure ensures these minors can access their records without having to pay fees. These documents are often needed to secure housing, employment, education, and social services.

This type of legislation has been endorsed by over 20 other states.

I would also like to include an amendment to this legislation, which you should have, thanks to your great legislative analysts. This amendment simply adds the ability for the director or designee of an emergency shelter program; the director or designee of a runaway or homeless youth services organization; a continuum of care lead agency, a social worker, teacher, or a school administrator to request vital records at no cost, with the youth's permission.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.