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Testimony in Support of:

*L.D. 620, "An Act to Provide Support Services for Military Members Transitioning to Civilian Life in Maine"*

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. I'm Steven Lanning, Deputy Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services. I'm here today to testify neither for nor against L.D. 620, "An Act to Provide Support Services for Military Members Transitioning to Civilian Life in Maine."

I would like to thank Deputy Commissioner Garland and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for their leadership in implementing the pilot program and for sharing its outcomes. The success of the pilot project, administered through Boots2Roots, highlights the importance of transition services for military members and their families. The ability to provide proactive outreach and support to those transitioning to civilian life strengthens Maine's workforce and communities.

Military transition can present challenges, especially for those unfamiliar with the region. Ensuring sustained support for transition services would help address these challenges and provide military members with the resources needed for successful integration into Maine's workforce and communities.

The Bureau supports Deputy Commissioner Garland's testimony and DECD's willingness to accept the funding. DECD has demonstrated the ability to oversee the appropriations as set forth under LD 620. The Bureau remains committed to supporting efforts that assist service members in their transition and stands ready to collaborate with DECD, and other stakeholders on this important issue.

We appreciate the Committee's attention to this matter and welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Lanning | Deputy Director  
Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services