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March 31, 2025

Testimony of Lisa McGlothlin
IN SUPPORT OF
**LD 962 -An Act to Establish the Offense of Aggravated Operating Under the Influence
Resulting in the Death of a Pet**
Before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

Good afternoon Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Lisa McGlothlin and I live in Lamoine. I am here in front of you today to testify in support of bill LD 962 -An Act to Establish the Offense of Aggravated Operating Under the Influence Resulting in the Death of a Pet. I want to publicly thank Representative Russell White of Ellsworth for sponsoring this bill on my behalf, and all the co-sponsors of this important and necessary bill that will bring justice to a pet who is killed by an impaired driver while riding in a motor vehicle.

To many people pets are considered family members. I can stand here in front of you today and tell you that most pets take up the same space in the hearts of their owners as babies naturally born into a family, or adoptees that are welcomed into that family, do.

Statistics show that many people drive while impaired, and those statistics only come from the ones who are caught. We should not have to worry about our lives, or the lives of our innocent pets being taken when we are on the road.

Never in a million years did I think something like this would happen to my family. You never think it will happen to you, until it does.

On April 11, 2024, my longtime fiancé, David Worcester, and our beloved black labrador, Macy, were hit head on by another driver in Steuben. A driver whose record with Maine's Bureau of Motor Vehicle is one of being a habitual offender. This driver has been charged and indicted for Aggravated Criminal Operating Under the Influence, along with three other charges that he has been indicted for. Dave and Macy did not survive this violent crash. This happened on an ordinary Thursday at lunchtime while Dave was operating in his own lane doing everything right. Dave and Macy were on the road that day just trying to make a living. Dave had just left a marine hardware store to pick up supplies and was less than half a mile away from his next stop.

Macy's death is the result of a crime that was committed. If that driver was not on the road driving erratically while impaired, Macy and Dave would still be alive today. For this reason, I believe a law is necessary to bring justice for an innocent pet that is killed this way. There needs to be accountability to a person responsible for taking the life of a pet in this manner. This bill becoming a law would be specific for this type of crime, and it would ensure justice would be

served for taking the life of a pet. I can assure you that if you lost your beloved companion this way, you would want to know there is a law in place to hold the person accountable who has caused you this much suffering. It is not fair that a person is allowed to take the life of an innocent pet and get away with it.

I appreciate your time, consideration, and the opportunity to give my testimony today. I humbly ask you to support this bill. I do not want another family to suffer emotionally like I have been the next time this happens, because killing a pet is killing a family member, and the pain it brings is agonizingly cruel.