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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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**Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety on
LD 1024, An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for
Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related
Medical Assistance
March 31, 2025**

Good afternoon, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety: I am Dave Haggan and I have the honor of representing the people of Senate District 10, which includes three municipalities in Hancock County and nine municipalities in Penobscot County. I am pleased to present LD 1024, *An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance*.

In 2019 and 2021, Maine enacted and expanded the Good Samaritan Law. If you're not familiar with the current policy, Maine's Good Samaritan Law protects people at the scene of an overdose from arrest and prosecution for most crimes. Enacting a robust Good Samaritan policy was an important step to saving the lives of people suffering from substance use disorder.

However, it is unreasonable and irresponsible to protect people who are causing these overdoses from responsibility. When drafting the law, lawmakers recognized that some crimes are too heinous to be exempt from prosecution even if the criminal was involved in saving someone's life. The current protection has exemptions for severe crimes such as murder, sexual assault, and crimes against children. Holding the people accountable who provide these drugs, and are profiting from their dissemination, will save lives.

Providing immunity to illicit drug traffickers and weapon offenses at an overdose scene is illogical. These are serious offenses with significant impacts to public safety. The current Good Samaritan Law has no method of dealing with traffickers and illegal firearms offenders at the scene of an overdose. People that are involved in the trafficking of dangerous drugs, like fentanyl, are the people who are providing drugs leading to life-threatening overdoses. They should not be immune from prosecution for the chaos they caused.

Furthermore, those involved with trafficking are also involved in illegal fire arm possession. Our Good Samaritan Law should not provide haven to those who engage in behaviors that threaten public safety and the very lives the Good Samaritan Law was enacted to protect. The prevalence of illegal firearms connected with drug trafficking is alarming and increasing. Criminal enterprises are profiting from the addiction and destruction they cause.

The primary goal of first responders, including law enforcement, is the preservation of life.

LD 1024 still offers robust protections for people who call for help in the event of an overdose. The goal of this bill is to simply strengthen the law to ensure drug dealers and firearm offenders are not given a free pass.

Thank you for your time today. I encourage you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1024. I would be happy to answer any questions but assure you there are people here today who will speak after me who can answer with more authority.