

## Testimony LD 943

Ryan Y. Kurr

Boston, MA

My name is Ryan Kurr, and I am opposed to LD 943. I am testifying today solely in my personal capacity and not as a representative or spokesperson of Fedcap.

I was born in Farmington and attended school systems in North Berwick and Brunswick. Some highlights of my early career included positions at Hartt Transportation and Northern Light Health. Eventually, through some mercy of a higher power, I found my way to Fedcap. I began my career with Fedcap as an Administrative Assistant serving the Midcoast region in Rockland. While working in that role, I earned my associate degree at Southern Maine Community College and later my bachelor's degree from the University of Maine at Augusta. Currently, I am pursuing my master's degree—all accomplished while working full-time at Fedcap. I participated in theater with the Recycled Shakespeare Company, serving on the Board of Directors and as President. I've also proudly served on the Board of Directors for the Maine Children's Home, including briefly as President of the Board for them as well. All of this while working at Fedcap.

Through dedication and a supportive environment, I was promoted to Program Manager in Bangor and subsequently was advanced to my current role as Director of Business Services. Fedcap's commitment to hard work, determination, professional development, education, and the importance of supporting those who need support mirror my own values and commitments.

Fedcap's services are delivered for the people of Maine, by the people of Maine. In my role, I had the privilege of working alongside with Representative Archer when he worked as Director of Partner Engagement at Fedcap Families, alongside me as a colleague and fellow director. Given his past leadership role at Fedcap, Representative Archer's authorship and current advocacy for LD 943 raises questions for me regarding his motivations for shifting away from the established services he once actively developed and supported.

I strongly believe in providing meaningful, comprehensive services to those who need them. Opposing LD 943 is not a partisan issue—it's about effectively supporting the individuals and families ASPIRE-TANF serves throughout the Pine Tree State. I believe the best way to achieve this is not by removing Fedcap but by continuing to build upon the existing relationships Fedcap has developed with individuals, community groups, nonprofits, and businesses in towns and cities throughout this amazing state.

I deeply believe in the positive impact Fedcap's services have on Maine families, fostering self-sufficiency and economic independence. Changing the administration of the ASPIRE-TANF program as proposed by LD 943 risks disrupting the stability and effectiveness of services currently delivered by an experienced, dedicated workforce.

I respectfully urge you to consider the potential unintended consequences of LD 943 on Maine residents who rely on the continuity and quality of these vital services.