



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Karen Montell introducing
**LD 1407, An Act to Direct the Board of Occupational Safety and Health to
Develop Indoor Air Quality Standards for Buildings in the State in Which
Public Sector Workers Work**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, I am Karen Montell and I represent House District 54, the Town of Farmingdale and the City of Gardiner.

I am here today to present **LD 1407, An Act to Direct the Board of Occupational Safety and Health to Develop Indoor Air Quality Standards for Buildings in the State in Which Public Sector Workers Work**.

Each day, our dedicated public sector workers show up to work in our state, our municipalities, our public schools, our health centers and hospitals for the benefit of our public safety. We rely on these important public sector workers to be at their best everyday, and they deserve to breathe clean air in their workplace. This bill seeks to create standards to protect the health of these workers and those they serve, including the children who attend public schools in our state.

The Maine Board of Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) has the ability and expertise to create these indoor air quality standards and this bill would ensure that these standards are set. Having standards would allow a framework to protect our public sector workers and minimize transmission of illness, reduce sick days and missed work and increase worker productivity and wellbeing. As you can see in Section 3 of the bill, the standards would be created for each of the items listed when appropriate, and though it is not mentioned in the bill text, increased ventilation in these spaces would improve indoor air quality exponentially.

In closing, this bill would direct BOSH to adopt rules for Indoor Air Quality Standards for state buildings in which public sector workers work. I ask you to join me in supporting these workers by ensuring we create a standard that seeks to protect their health in their workplace.

Thank you for your time, attention and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.