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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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**Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety on
LD 1288, An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Drug Laws
Regarding Heroin, Fentanyl and Cocaine
April 14, 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 1288, *An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Drug Laws Regarding Heroin, Fentanyl and Cocaine*.

I sponsored this legislation to reverse changes made by the 130th Legislature's LD 1675, "*An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Drug Laws*." That law raised the presumptive amounts for drug trafficking and furnishing. It doubled the fentanyl/heroin trafficking threshold from 2 grams to 4 grams, and increased the furnishing threshold from 201 mg to 2 grams.

LD 1675 was part of a broader move toward drug decriminalization, an understandable approach to try and quell our crisis. However, these policy shifts have not curbed drug use or availability. Instead, Maine's drug crisis has worsened—supply is plentiful, demand is soaring, and communities across the state are suffering.

Evidence of an Escalating Crisis:

- Law enforcement is now encountering wholesale quantities of drugs, including kilos of fentanyl.
- Transnational and domestic criminal organizations, including gangs, are actively supplying our local markets.
- The street price of fentanyl has dropped sharply. Two years ago, it was \$150 per gram; today, it can be less than \$100.

This dangerous market continues to grow, bringing with it mounting societal costs. Drug use and related crimes now pose the greatest threat to public safety in Maine. While overdose deaths have declined—thanks to expanded naran access—non-fatal overdoses are on the rise. This highlights the depth of addiction across our communities.

Current street prices illustrate how accessible these substances have become:

- **Fentanyl/Heroin:** \$100/gram (2023: \$150)
- **Cocaine** (HCL and base): \$100/gram
- **Methamphetamine:** \$100/gram

To understand how minimal a gram is—consider a single packet of sugar that you find on a restaurant table or a coffee shop. That’s roughly 1 gram, equating to 10 doses. Under current law, an individual can possess up to 2 grams (20 doses) without legal presumption of furnishing, and just under 4 grams (40 doses) without triggering trafficking laws. That’s up to \$400 worth of fentanyl—a highly potent and deadly drug—without meaningful legal consequence.

Someone with a 1-gram-per-day opioid habit must obtain 7 grams weekly, costing \$700—excluding additional costs tied to poly-drug use, housing, food, or transportation. For many, crime becomes the only option to sustain addiction. These include drug trafficking, theft, robbery, fraud, and even human trafficking.

While efforts to decriminalize drugs are well-intentioned, these actions have significantly reduced law enforcement’s ability to combat the drug crisis effectively. While investment in prevention, treatment, and recovery is crucial, we are missing the final leg of the stool: enforcement. A balanced, pragmatic strategy is the only way forward—one that reduces demand *and* disrupts supply.

Unchecked permissiveness has removed accountability, enabled criminal enterprises, and deepened the suffering in our communities. Maine families are being torn apart. Children are at greater risk. Crime is rising. Public spaces are no longer safe.

We cannot ignore these realities. We must reject apathy and restore accountability. The success of our strategy must be measured by results: reduced supply, reduced demand, and most importantly, lives saved.

Thank you for your time today. I encourage you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1288. I would be happy to answer any questions you have.