



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Flavia DeBrito introducing
**LD 1566, An Act to Provide Compensation to Individuals with
Lived Experience Serving on Advisory Boards, Commissions,
Councils and Similar Groups**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Flavia DeBrito and I represent House District 64, which is comprised of parts of Waterville and Winslow.

I am here today to introduce **LD 1566, An Act to Provide Compensation to Individuals with Lived Experience Serving on Advisory Boards, Commissions, Councils, and Similar Groups**.

This bill proposes crucial amendments to the law governing compensation and reimbursement for board members serving on advisory boards, specifically targeting Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-I. The primary objective of this bill is to enable board members with firsthand, lived experience related to the board's subject matter to receive compensation, particularly if they are not already compensated by their employer or represented entity.

However, one significant question arises: What are the benefits of having lived-experience voices around the table? This prompts us to delve deeper into why rewarding people for their lived experiences is morally right. It sheds light on the challenges associated with ensuring that individuals receive compensation. Today, you will hear the testimony of important voices in our community who sit on board advisory panels, committees and more. They will tell their stories of how important LD 1566 is to them.

I am eager to engage in meaningful discussions with all of you regarding the importance of this bill and the positive impact it can have on individuals with lived experience seeking to contribute to advisory boards. Thank you for your time and consideration of LD 1566. I am prepared to address any questions or concerns you may have on this matter.

Additionally, I want to thank you for your attention and dedication to the well-being of our constituents. I look forward to collaborating with each of you on this vital issue.

District 64: Parts of Waterville and Winslow