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April 28, 2025

Testimony of Representative Morgan Rielly introducing
LD 1576, An Act to Extend a One-year Lobbying Prohibition to Partisan and Nonpartisan Staff of the Legislature
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Good afternoon, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. I am Morgan Rielly, and I represent House District 127, which includes part of Westbrook. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce **LD 1576, An Act to Extend a One-year Lobbying Prohibition to Partisan and Nonpartisan Staff of the Legislature** for your consideration.

This bill is straightforward. It addresses what I feel is a gap in our laws regarding our one-year lobbying prohibition by extending it to partisan and nonpartisan staff in the Legislature.

Legislative staff should be held to the same lobbying standards as legislators and executive branch employees. I want to be clear – this bill isn't about any particular staff. This is about addressing the gap that has been created with the current exemption. I don't think it is appropriate for partisan and nonpartisan staff to have the ability to work in the State House on a Friday and then lobby their former committees or legislators on a Monday.

Leaving during the session or in between sessions to lobby undermines trust, not just with legislators, but with the broader public. It also creates an unfair advantage for the lobby, with staff being privy to caucus or committee information and having close connections with current legislators. To avoid this, we should extend the same one-year lobbying ban to the staff of the Legislature.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions or provide any further information for the work session.