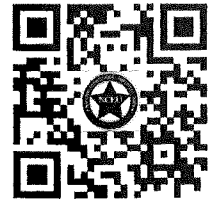




# NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES UNION

30 North King Street Northampton, MA 01060



May 9, 2025

Joint Standing Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
100 State House Station, Rm. 436  
Augusta, ME 04333  
By email to [CJPS@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:CJPS@legislature.maine.gov)

**RE: LD1114 –AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF CORRECTIONS OFFICERS WHO  
DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY RECEIVE A PENSION.**

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Distinguished Legislative Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee;

My name is William Doyle. Currently I serve in the role of Executive Director for the National Correctional Employees Unions (NCEU). The National Correctional Employees Union (NCEU) represents nine (9) County Correctional Units in the State of Maine comprising of approx. four hundred (400) members from York to Aroostook County.

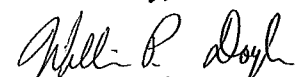
The NCEU rises in favor and wholeheartedly supports LD1114 and commends Representative Salisbury for submitting legislation aimed at tackling several issues near and dear to the corrections profession. The current proposed piece of legislation will provide a much needed safety net for families of correctional officers who die in the Line of Duty. According to an article from the American Correctional Officer Intelligence Network, now One Voice United, the average life expectancy of a corrections officer is 59 years of age. (ACOIN, 2015) Corrections officers suffer from higher PTSD, suicide, and divorce rates than other professions and the general public. Please See ACOIN publication, Impacts of Understaffing, (March 2017) and Desert Waters Correctional Outreach study (2013). People who enter jails are often stressed, combative, and under the influence. These factors lead to altercations which place correctional employees in harms way day in and day out. Not only are correctional employees forced into physical altercations to protect themselves or others, they are often exposed to bodily fluids such as saliva, urine, and feces being used as weapons.

The County jail system has been financially handcuffed ever since the jail consolidation efforts of 2008. The NCEU submitted testimony in favor of LD's 852 and respectively 719 aimed at increasing state funding for the County Jail Operations Fund. Due to the fiscal challenges, collective bargaining for wages and benefits suffered concessions which negatively affected staffing levels at all prisons and jails. Currently, Cumberland County has approx. 70 vacancies and York County has approx. 28 vacancies for corrections officers. Staffing shortages cause increases in voluntary and mandated overtime. Unlike other professions, Correctional Staff do not have the ability to say, "No" to mandated overtime. In fact, Correctional Officers have been disciplined for refusing to stay for overtime.

Due to the increased demand on Correctional Officers and inherent dangers of the profession previously identified, LD 1114 will make sure that spouse's or minor children will receive half (1/2) of the Officer's pay as a pension benefit, but no less than \$1,000 annually. Ensuring that their families are supported financially should they die in the Line of Duty is morally ethical and a testament to the value we place on the profession. Support of this legislation by Senators and Representatives will show parity with fellow law enforcement officers who currently receive this benefit.

In closing, the NCEU would like to reiterate our support for LD1114 and urge the committee and full legislature pass this important piece of legislation. Thank you very much for your time and I'm happy to field any questions.

In Solidarity,

  
William Doyle  
Executive Director

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