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Testimony of Rep. Sue Salisbury presenting

LD 1114, An Act to Provide That Spouses and Children of Corrections Officers Who Die in the Line of Duty Receive a Pension *Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, I am Sue Salisbury, and I represent House District 128, which includes part of Westbrook. I am here today to present my final bill of this session, **LD 1114, An Act to Provide that Spouses and Children of Corrections Officers Who Die in the Line of Duty Receive a Pension.**

I want to thank you all for your time and attention to all of the bills that I have presented before you this session. A few have been bills that I have worked on for more than one session, and a few, like this one, are bills that I am giving my first try at.

This is another bill that was brought to me by Sheriff Joyce. This bill would add corrections officers to the provision of law that deals with line-of-duty deaths. The bill would require that spouses or children of corrections officers who die as a result of an injury received in the line of duty must receive pensions equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the pay of the corrections officer but not less than \$1,000 annually.

I am the wife of a retired corrections officer, who was raising four children with him at the time he was employed. We both feared that something would happen to him on the job, and I knew that if something had happened to him, we would be emotionally and financially devastated. Corrections officers know the danger that they face in their line of work, and they accept that when they take the job. However, they should not have to be worrying about what will happen to their families if they become seriously injured or even killed in the line of duty.

This bill is another step toward acknowledging the stressful and dangerous work that corrections officers do, and it provides a little peace of mind to the families of the corrections officers.

Thank you again for your consideration of all my bills this session. I am happy to answer any questions you may have, but I may defer to Sheriff Joyce, who is here as well.