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*Testimony of Representative Kristi Mathieson presenting*

### **LD 2087, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Licensure of American Sign Language Interpreters**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services*

Senator Bailey and honorable members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. I am Representative Kristi Mathieson, and I represent House District 151, the seaside community of Kittery. I am here to present **LD 2087, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Licensure of American Sign Language Interpreters**.

This is a Department of Professional and Financial Regulation bill that implements key recommendations from the Transforming Interpreting Maine (TIME) needs assessment report issued by the Department of Health and Human Services in 2024 following the October 2023 Lewiston shooting.

The bill authorizes an emergency exemption to American Sign Language interpreter licensure during declared emergencies, creates a broader educational pathway to licensure and extends conditional licensure from four to five years, with the option of a sixth year in cases of extreme hardship.

The Department is here today, and I respectfully ask that you direct most of your questions to their representatives. Thank you for your time and consideration.