



Good afternoon, Sen Ingwersen, Rep Meyer and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Hannah Longley, and I am a resident of Litchfield, Maine, and the owner of Dochas Wellness. I am a licensed clinical social worker who has worked in crisis services and suicide prevention for the past two decades. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working closely with many members of the military community, including those on active duty, veterans, and individuals with combat exposure.

With this professional and personal background, I am here today to strongly support LD 2108 An Act to Establish the Suicide Mortality Review Panel.

Tragically, Maine leads the Northeast in veteran suicide deaths, despite numerous dedicated efforts and initiatives across our state. Suicide mortality review panels are a proven tool that provide critical insight into the underlying factors that contribute to suicide deaths. These panels allow for the systematic gathering and analysis of data, helping us to better understand the complex risk factors involved and to develop prevention strategies that are based on evidence, not assumption.

Maine has always taken pride in our creativity, resilience, and our ability to come together to support one another. A suicide mortality review panel represents that same spirit as it brings together professionals, advocates, and communities to learn from tragedy and develop meaningful, targeted solutions that reflect the unique needs of our state.

The passage of LD 2108 will ensure that the ongoing efforts are grounded in accurate information and responsive to the real needs within our communities. By passing this bill, you will help to advance interventions that prevent suicide deaths, particularly among those who have served and sacrificed so much for our country.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to improving the mental health and well-being of all Maine residents. I respectfully urge you to support LD 2108.

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