



MAINE AFL-CIO

A Union of Unions Standing for Maine Workers
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Testimony of Maine AFL-CIO Legislative & Political Director, Adam Goode, in support of LD 669, "An Act Regarding Labor"

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, my name is Adam Goode. I'm the Legislative and Political Director of the Maine AFL-CIO. We represent 40,000 working people in the state of Maine. We work to improve the lives and working conditions of our members and all working people. We testify in support of LD 669.

In January, two state road workers died when a minivan hit them in a construction zone in Waterville. The workers were working in a posted work zone with cones and a stop sign. Both workers lost their lives when a minivan and a tractor-trailer collided as the minivan was entering the passing lane.

After the collision happened, the minivan entered the work zone, hitting three state road workers. Two of those road workers passed away after falling over the bridge and onto Kennedy Memorial Drive.

Maine's line of duty death benefit provides a one-time, tax-free line of duty death benefit of \$100,000 to the families of eligible law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and corrections officers, indexed annually for inflation. The benefit, funded by the state, applies to deaths occurring in the line of duty and is indexed to inflation.

This bill adds highway maintenance workers to the groups of employees who are eligible for the line of duty death benefit. The death benefit is designed to honor the ultimate sacrifice of public safety professionals and to ensure their families are not left in financial ruin.

Highway maintenance workers do dangerous jobs that serve the public benefit. These workers have families and should not be left in financial ruin when tragedy strikes.

For these reasons we ask that you support LD 669.