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Testimony of Representative Tiffany D. Roberts presenting LD 322, "An Act To Provide Occupants of Motor Vehicles with Gold Star Family Registration Plates Free Entry to State Parks and Historic Sites"

before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. I am Representative Tiffany Roberts, and I represent House District 6, which includes parts of North Berwick and South Berwick. I am here today to present LD 322, An Act To Provide Occupants of Motor Vehicles with Gold Star Family Registration Plates Free Entry to State Parks and Historic Sites.

This bill was introduced in the 129th, and passed, but died upon adjournment before it could become law. Since the original bill was brought forth by another member who shared my interest in helping our military and their families, I thought it appropriate for me to bring it back for the consideration of the 130th.

Gold Star families who have lost loved ones in the line of duty deserve much more than we, as legislators, can provide. However, we can honor and reward our veterans and recognize the sacrifices of Gold Star families by providing them the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Maine's state parks and historic sites at no cost to them.

LD 322 provides for free entry to Maine state parks and historic sites for those with Gold Star license plates and for passengers in those vehicles. Vehicles displaying a Disabled Veteran license plate currently receive this benefit, and the same should be true for Gold Star families. This bill does not place an additional burden on the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions or to provide you with any information for your upcoming work session.