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Thank you for your time for the opportunity to speak to all of you.

I would like to submit my testimony to support LD 1683, my name is Sgt. Kevin Dionne and have been employed with the department of corrections for over 17 years. Working in corrections you always know that there is some risk in doing the job. As the state started into the pandemic never in my wildest thoughts did, I think about what we were going to be faced with. At first you think in your mind it is going to be like another flew bug that goes through the family. Then COVID got worse through the country and you started to see the devastation that families were starting to go through. I can remember sitting with my wife and trying to figure out what we were going to do if a case hit the facility and how I was going to keep my family safe. At the time I think I was still in denial until we had a case at the facility it brought a new level of stress, the plan had to be put into action. We had set up a bed in the basement and I was to come through the cellar door out back and wash clothing separately. Food would be left at the top of the stairs and then the door shut. All this because I didn't want my kids and grandkids or loved ones not to contract anything from me in case that I had caught it from working. Some of my co-workers were able to work from home, but being an essential employee, I had to get up and report for duty. Being skeptical about going in, the hazard pay was not the cure all but it at least we felt that for showing up we knew the state felt they understood what we were putting at risk working in units and areas that had positive cases. I am asking you to please be reinstated including all the back pay earned.

Thank you
Kevin Dionne