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Health & Human Services Committee Ranking Member

Good morning, Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren, and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Joint Standing Committee. My name is Marianne Moore. I proudly represent Senate District 6, which includes all of Washington County along with Winter Harbor, Gouldsboro, and Sullivan in Hancock County as well.

I am here in support of LD 1862, "An Act To Strengthen Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance".

As you may recall during the 129th Legislature we passed LD329 establishing our first "Good Samaritan" law exempting criminal liability for reporting a drug-related medical emergency. The law protects the person calling and the person who is overdosing for a very limited set of crimes. The on-the-ground stories we are hearing indicate the law is deeply inadequate thus the necessity of the bill before you.

LD 1862 provides immunity from arrest, prosecution, or revocation proceedings for EVERYONE at the scene of an overdose. The immunity excludes all violent crimes, all sexual crimes, arson, all crimes against children, conspiracy, and solicitation AND all attempts at those crimes.

This bill is an important one to close the unintended gaps the previous "Good Samaritan" law did not include. Willing bystanders, wanting to help, should not have to pause and say, "Am I going to be arrested if I call 911?" Today 40 States and the District of Columbia have similar laws on the books. With our growing drug epidemic, we need to make Maine the 41st State!

I urge you to vote "Ought To Pass" on LD1862. Thank you!