

John Lee
Dedham
LD 1796

Good afternoon,

I am submitting this written testimony in support of LD 1796 An Act to Protect Transit Workers. As a longtime transit worker who currently works for the City of Bangor at the Community Connector, I strongly support this vital legislation. Assaults on transit workers happen far to often and, in most cases, are without consequences for those who commit these attacks.

Imagine for a moment that a passenger on a bus were to assault a driver causing that driver to lose control of their vehicle. Not only is the driver and all of the passengers on the bus at risk but also other motorists and pedestrians. The bus could cross over into on coming traffic and have a head-on collision or run off the road into a crowded area striking innocent pedestrians.

This legislation would serve as notice that an assault on a transit worker would not be tolerated here in the State of Maine...that to do so would be a Class C crime and anyone committing such a crime will be held accountable.

I have been in the transit industry since the early 1990's, mostly in the City of Boston. I served 24 years with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority also known as the MBTA. I have since relocated and now proudly call Maine my home. I have taken a position as a bus operator for the Communtiy Connector and over my career I have unfortunately seen many of my coworkers suffer attacks while just trying to do their jobs providing a vital public service. You are in a position to help change that by supporting this legislation. I am asking that you please get on board and protect transit workers.

Thank You,
John Lee