

Craig V. Hickman Senator, District 14 3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman in support of LD 738, "An Act to Remove Barriers to Becoming a Lawyer by Establishing a Law Office Study Program," Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary Monday, March 10

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Craig Hickman, and I am proud to represent Senate District 14, twelve municipalities in southern Kennebec County including my beloved hometown of Winthrop. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of LD 738, "An Act to Remove Barriers to Becoming a Lawyer by Establishing a Law Office Study Program."

Maine has a shortage of lawyers, and this bill would help to alleviate that shortage. I understand that many people in the legal industry are hesitant to create a way to "cut the line," but I believe that we need to explore additional options to get more lawyers here in Maine.

Last session on the floor of the Senate, I declared, "I will not spend another day in school in my life, but I would love to be a lawyer. This bill would help me to do that." I hope you will join me in supporting this legislation.

Thank you.

Craig V. Hickman State Senator, District 14