

Valerie Caruso  
Augusta  
LD 82

The recent amendment to workers' compensation laws is an important step in supporting our frontline workers who are often exposed to traumatic situations in the line of duty. Extending the presumption for law enforcement officers, corrections officers, E-9-1-1 dispatchers, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder is a necessary recognition of the mental toll that their work can take.

This amendment addresses a critical need for these individuals to receive the necessary care and support for their mental health, just as they would for physical injuries sustained on the job. By removing the time limit on this presumption, it ensures that these essential workers will have access to the resources they need for as long as necessary.

Overall, this amendment demonstrates a proactive approach to supporting those who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe. It is a positive step towards recognizing and addressing the mental health challenges faced by our first responders, and I applaud the efforts to prioritize their well-being.