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Testimony in Support of LD 82

An Act to Amend The Workers' Compensation Laws by Extending Indefinitely The Presumption Applying to Law Enforcement Officers, Corrections Officers, E-9-1-1 Dispatchers, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Services Persons Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and distinguished members of The Joint Standing Committee on Labor. My name is William St. Michel, I am the retired Fire Chief of The Town of Durham and currently The Executive Director for Maine Fire Chiefs' Association. Maine Fire Chiefs Association is in support of LD 82.

Our members are regularly exposed to high stress demanding situations. They should have the protection afforded by a rebuttable presumption for Post-traumatic stress disorder. That protection is currently in place through Title 39A Workers Compensation Chapter 5, Subsection 201, paragraph 3B. That section is scheduled to be repealed October 1, 2025. LD 82 would avert the current presumption in paragraph 3B from being repealed and keep the protection of a rebuttable presumption in place indefinitely

We ask for your support of LD 82 in recommending its passage!

Thank You!

Respectfully,
William St. Michel
Executive Director
Maine Fire Chiefs' Association