Catherine Jewell LINCOLN LD 599

I have observed unfair pay practices in the construction business. In Maine, where work seasons are short, construction workers are pressed to work far and above a 40-hour work week, often 6 days a week and many times during the night when necessary. A family member worked in construction as a "salaried foreman" and not only was he expected to work out of town and pay to stay away from home, but a typical work week was no less than 60 hours, often upwards of 70 plus hours when required to work Saturdays. I believe companies often assign titles that unfairly fit employees into a "salaried" position knowing the required work week will exceed the typical 40 hours. This can prevent employees from collecting overtime pay that is normally guaranteed an hourly worker. I believe this bill will provide protection to Maine workers who find themselves in that category. Currently, in Maine, only 13 percent of salaried employees are compensated for overtime. I support this bill to protect worker's rights.