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LD 938, An Act To Ensure Maine Workers' Right To Request a Schedule Change at Their Places of Employment

April 21, 2021

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Stephen Gorden and in addition to serving as chair of the board of commissioners for Cumberland County, I am writing today in my role as board president of the Maine County Commissioners Association. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee in opposition to LD 938.

About MCCA. Briefly, the Maine County Commissioners Association was established in 1890 to assist Maine's county government in providing vital services to Maine citizens in a responsive, efficient, and credible manner. The Association is based in Augusta and currently represents 15 of Maine's 16 counties and is governed by a board with representation from each participating county commission.

Our position on LD 938. Counties provide important regional services to Mainers ranging from law enforcement, to correctional facilities for short-term detention, to emergency communications and administration, to registries of deeds, to registries and courts of probate, to maintaining facilities for Maine's superior and district courts and district attorneys offices. Counties are governed by elected county commissioners, and funded by a mix of property taxes, user fees, and state revenue contributions. Counties are also employers, and as such, they hire and manage many different employees.

When issues arise, all county employees are encouraged to speak with their supervisors about any and all needs with respect to their job – be it in regard to their schedule, the environment in which they work, relations with co-workers, etc. These are all conversations that happen between employees and supervisors as needed, and when accommodations are appropriate, they are made. We do not feel that statute is necessary to create a right for an employee to request a change of schedule, and it is for that reason that we oppose LD 938.

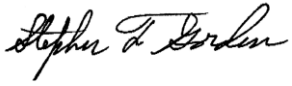
Conclusion. We hope this information is helpful to the Committee as it considers LD 938, and we hope the Committee will see fit to give this bill an "ought not to pass" report.

MCCA Testimony re LD 938

April 21, 2021

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Gorden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Gorden" clearly distinguishable.

Stephen Gorden
President

cc: Commissioner Brian Hobart, Chair, MCCA Legislative Committee
James I. Cohen, Verrill Dana, LLP, MCCA Legislative Counsel