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## Testimony in Support of LD 1269

### "An Act To Preserve Fair Housing in Maine"

**J. Andrew Cashman on behalf of the Maine Association of REALTORS®**

**May 5, 2021**

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Andy Cashman. I am a Partner at Preti Flaherty and I am here on behalf of my client, the Maine Association of REALTORS®, which is a professional trade association with over 5600 members state wide. Our members represent both buyers and sellers and are involved in both residential and commercial transactions. Our membership also includes affiliates, which are those professionals involved in real estate transactions, such as bankers, closing agents, title agents, appraisers, building inspectors, surveyors, etc. The Maine Association is a member of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) which is the largest trade association in the country.

The Maine Association of REALTORS® supports LD 1269.

Upon membership in our trade association, REALTORS® in Maine and across the U.S. commit to abide by the REALTOR® Code of Ethics. Since 1913, the REALTOR® Code of Ethics and the enforcement of the Code through our Professional Standards process seeks to ensure professionalism in our duties to clients and customers, duties to the public, and duties to our REALTOR® colleagues.

Article 10 of the REALTOR® Code of Ethics reads:

REALTORS® shall not deny equal professional services to any person for reasons of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity. REALTORS® shall not be parties to any plan or agreement to discriminate against a person or persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

REALTORS®, in their real estate employment practices, shall not discriminate against any person or persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

As stewards of the right to own, use, and transfer private property, REALTORS® recognize the significance of a free open market that embraces equal opportunity and fair housing and are committed to upholding fair housing law as well as offering equal professional service to all in their search for real property.



REALTOR® - is a registered mark which identifies a professional in real estate who subscribes to a strict Code of Ethics as a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



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We support other organizations and their efforts to affirmatively further fair housing. We urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1269. Thank you for your time and consideration.