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## Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

### In Opposition to LD 1896, *An Act to Index Workers' Compensation Benefits to the Rate of Inflation*

May 11, 2023

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Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Labor and Housing Committee. My name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1896 on behalf of the 70 municipal leaders elected by their peers to serve on the Association's Legislative Policy Committee and directed to establish positions on bills of municipal interest.

Municipal officials are concerned that the changes proposed in LD 1896 will significantly increase the cost of benefits provided under the Workers' Compensation Act, thereby shifting additional burdens onto the property taxpayers who simply cannot afford it. Additionally, the bill advances a policy that is inconsistent with the consensus that was built around a 2019 amendment to the Act that provides for a cost-of-living adjustment after an employee has received 260 weeks of total benefits. From the perspective of municipal leaders, it is best to let the current policy be more fully implemented before seeking additional amendments and refinements to the law.

Thank you for considering the municipal perspective on this issue. If you have any questions about the Association's position on this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kdufour@memun.org](mailto:kdufour@memun.org) or 1-800-452-8786.