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Testimony of Attorney General in Support of LD 875, *An Act To Protect Taxpayers in the Privatization of Services and To Establish the State Procurement Review Committee*

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, I am Aaron M. Frey of Bangor, and I have the honor of serving as Maine's Attorney General.

When the state considers outsourcing of services that might otherwise be provided by a State employee, it is important to ensure that safeguards are in place to protect the interests of taxpayers and to ensure that the services in question cannot be provided as effectively by state workers and at a lower cost.

In the 129th Legislature, my office worked closely with then State Senator Shenna Bellows, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, unions representing public sector workers, and members of this committee to come to an agreement on a bill which would have achieved these goals. That bill, LD 1458, was voted on in committee but was never considered by the full Legislature due to the pandemic-related early adjournment.

I am thankful that Senator Baldacci has introduced LD 875, which reflects the agreement reached between interested parties last year. I support this legislation.

Notably, this bill would give the Attorney General important oversight over privatization contracts and grants us the authority to intervene in the process. It also makes clear that the Attorney General has the authority to bring an action to enjoin or prevent privatization when appropriate to do so.

LD 875 is an important reform measure which will protect Maine citizens and its state workforce. I encourage the committee to support this bill.