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130th MAINE SENATE

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Testimony of Senator Paul Davis
In Support of L.D. 537, An Act to Dedicate Sections of Maine's Interstate Highway System
to Fallen State Troopers
Before the Committee on Transportation
April 15, 2021

Senator Diamond, Representative Martin and members of the Transportation Committee: I am Senator Paul Davis and I have the honor of representing the people of Senate District 4, which includes Piscataquis County and parts of Somerset and Penobscot counties. I am before you today to testify in strong support of L.D. 537, An Act to Dedicate Sections of Maine's Interstate Highway System to Fallen State Troopers.

As a retired Maine State Trooper, I am pleased to speak in support of the legislation before you that would designate a one-mile stretch of the Interstate 95 highway in memory and honor of each police officer who has died in the line of duty. Since 1921, our law enforcement family has lost twelve Maine Troopers while performing their duties. Most recently Detective Ben Campbell, a husband and father to a young son, lost his life when he was struck by a tire that flew off a tractor-trailer truck. While our law enforcement family mourned his loss, his family and friends have and will for the rest of their lives.

We have monuments, bridges, and other forms of markers honoring the lives of individuals from different areas of service that have lost their life while doing their job. However, we do not have something specifically designating and honor that of our state troopers whose main job is to patrol and protect those traveling on I-95. The men and women patrolling our interstate highway have given their life to protecting those of us traveling from York County to Aroostook County. They are tasked with making serious arrests and helping someone on the side of the road whose vehicle has broken down amongst a number of other things. Many times they have left their family in the middle of the night or a terrible snow storm, but none the less duty calls for them to serve and protect.

At a time when we are losing members of law enforcement to retirement and the simple fact that violence towards those in uniform seems to be at an all-time high, I think the passage of this legislation is a positive and timely way to show our troopers and their families that we still support them. Just like you and I, our troopers are public servants who have stepped up to serve.

Again, the passage of this legislation would honor the lives of our Fallen Troopers by placing signage at the mile-marker along I-95 nearest to where the officer's death occurred.

I thank you for your consideration of this legislation and I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.