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Governor

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL  
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION  
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Anne L. Head  
Commissioner

## TESTIMONY OF ANNE L. HEAD

Commissioner, Department of Professional and Financial Regulation

In Opposition to LD 827 Part A

### " An Act To Help Veterans Access Jobs, Education and Housing

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERAN AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Sponsored by Senator Joseph Rafferty

Public Hearing: Monday April 5, 2021 9:00 am

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and members of the Committee, my name is Anne Head. I am Commissioner for the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and the Director of DPFR's Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (OPOR). I am here today to speak against only Part A of LD 827.

For many years, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and its internal and affiliated licensing boards have collaborated with the US Departments of Defense, Maine's Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and the Department of Labor to provide specialized professional licensing support for military veterans and their families, including military spouses. Under my leadership, the Department has been in the forefront of the efforts to ensure that military applicants receive credit for relevant military training and experience toward licensure. I partnered with military leaders, legislators and colleagues in the Department of Labor to create a special program for military personnel with medical or health related training and experience to qualify for similar positions in hospitals and medical facilities here in Maine.

Just this session we collaborated with the US Department of Defense, the Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and bill sponsor, Senator Curry, on LD 374 which, as amended, would require boards within OPOR to issue a *temporary* license to military, veterans and their spouses/domestic partners while applicants work toward completing their application for full licensure. This mandatory temporary license was not appropriate for all boards and agencies, which is why the final version was limited to boards within OPOR. The DOD enthusiastically supported this amendment.

OFFICES LOCATED AT: 76 NORTHERN AVENUE, GARDINER, MAINE

While we acknowledge the well-intentioned goals behind LD 827, the military, veterans and their families are already well served by our licensing boards and regulatory agencies. The mandatory processes set forth in this bill raise a number of concerns you will hear about from our boards and agencies.

The agencies and boards within the Department already enthusiastically assist members of the military, veterans and their spouses achieve their professional goals and objectives. I encourage you to remove section A from the bill and allow Maine's boards and regulatory agencies the discretion and authority they need to serve the military while also serving their statutory purpose to protect the public.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions now or at the work sessions.