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Testimony of Sen. Chloe Maxmin introducing
LD 1621, An Act To Reform Payments to Legislators by
Political Action Committees
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and honorable members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee:

My name is Chloe Maxmin. I represent Senate District 13, which includes all of Lincoln County except for Dresden, plus Washington and Windsor—a total of twenty-seven towns. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of LD 1621, An Act To Reform Payments to Legislators by Political Action Committees.

This bill joins other pieces of legislation this Session to ensure that money, campaigns, and politics have the cleanest relationship possible. I know that we all hear from our constituents about the need to get big money out of politics. We deserve free and fair elections. We also deserve to know that our Legislators are not unfairly profiting or benefiting from doing the people's work.

This bill has seven parts to it that I can walk through quickly. They all revolve around how PACs relate to Legislators, specifically if a Legislator is a principal officer of the PAC or one of the people who is primarily responsible for raising money for the PAC or deciding how the PAC operates.

- First, it says that a PAC can't compensate a Legislator or their immediate family members or a business owned by them for services provided to the PAC.
- Second, it says that a PAC can reimburse a Legislator for gas, but a PAC cannot reimburse a Legislator for vehicle repair, maintenance, or accessorizing.
- Third, a PAC cannot pay or reimburse a Legislator for expenses that have been or will be reimbursed by the Legislature or any other source.
- Fourth, it says that allowable payments or reimbursements for expenses do not include payments from a PAC that are determined by Ethics to be for personal enrichment of the Legislator or their immediate family.
- Fifth, PAC funds cannot be commingled with personal funds, another person's funds, or a business's fund.

- Sixth, any Legislator in violation of these laws can be fined up to \$500 or the amount of the unalloyed payment/reimbursement.
- Seventh, it allows the Ethics Commission to create routine technical rules around record-keeping and reporting requirements as well as travel and vehicle reimbursement rates.

These are common-sense reforms in my mind. I thank the Committee for its consideration and am happy to answer any questions.

All the best,

Chloe