

Good Afternoon Senator Hickman, Representative Caiazzo and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee:

My name is Wayne Little and am speaking today on behalf of the United Veterans of Maine. Our organization opened the first Veterans Homeless Shelter in Aroostook County which has served many Veterans in recent years. The UVM is an organization of Veterans Helping Veterans and we stand with our other Veterans organizations in Aroostook County in support of LD 2001. I have had personal experience with the Caribou Maine Veterans Home transferring my brother to the facility several years ago. While he has since passed, he always talked about how well he was cared for by both the Veterans Home and their staff as well as the hospital, Cary Medical Center. Having him so close to us allowed us to visit with him often and maintain a strong relationship. The staff at the home were sensitive to the fact that my brother was a Veteran that he had served his country and now, in his time of need, they and the home were there to take care of him.

I became very familiar with the Veterans Home as a volunteer driver for the VA. The home was a busy place and our Veterans were pleased to attend events at the home, including Veterans Day, Memorial Day and others. The Caribou

Veterans Home has become part of our Veterans Family. The people that work there too are part of our Veterans family and community.

The United Veterans of Maine is as relatively new organization but we are strong supporters of our Veterans and we urge our legislature to support this bill and keep our Veterans Homes open.

Thank you