

# MAINE BANKERS

Association

TESTIMONY OF CHRIS PINKHAM  
FEBRUARY 5, 2019  
**SUPPORT**

*LD 477 An Act to Provide Relief to Federal Employees Affected by the Federal Shutdown*

Good afternoon Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee. My name is Chris Pinkham, I am a resident of Freeport and I am President of the Maine Bankers Association. Today, I stand before you representing the 31 retail banks and their 9,000 employees living and working in Maine. All these banks are members of the Maine Bankers Association.

We want to thank President Jackson for bringing this bill forward, and for working with the Industry to get the word out to impacted employees to contact their financial institution if they were experiencing financial difficulty due to the partial federal government shutdown. From the start of the shutdown, our member banks from across Maine were working with impacted customers and creating options after evaluating everyone's financial circumstances. Those efforts continue.

We are here today in support of President Jackson's original goal of helping federal workers facing hardship relating to the partial shutdown that began on December 22, 2018. As we now know, the 35-day shutdown ended on January 25, 2019. What we don't know is what will happen on Feb. 15 when the extension expires. While we all hope that a compromise will be achieved, it is possible that we will return in a few weeks to discuss another shut down. If that occurs, we would anticipate an amended LD 477 and will be pleased to reappear and comment on that proposal. As you might imagine, there are some specifics regarding the administration of the program that we would want to discuss if a bill becomes necessary.

Again, we want to thank President Jackson for bringing the original bill forward and we supported his intentions relating to this recent shutdown.

For additional information,  
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