

**To: Senate Ways and Means Committee**

**From: Kraig Knowlton, Director of Personnel Services  
Department of Administration**

**Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 308**

**Date: March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 308.

The Department of Administration fully supports the establishment of a statutory hiring preference for persons with disabilities. This legislation updates our existing statutory framework, improving our ability to overcome practical challenges that have hampered the State's ability to implement this program which was first contemplated several years ago. The legislation clarifies who will be eligible for the preference, how that eligibility is ascertained, and the nature of the preference provided which address each of those challenges.

The Department of Administration is also in full support of the proposed changes to the State's current hiring preference for veterans contained in this legislation, which will allow more spouses of veterans to be eligible for the preference.

This important legislation can be implemented with relatively minor modifications to our current system and practices. The Department of Administration would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.