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State of Maine
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

June 17, 2013

TO: Senator Dawn Hill, Senate Chair
Representative Margaret Rotundo, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Linda M. Valentino, Senate Chair *LAV*
Representative Charles R. Priest, House Chair *CP*
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Re: Judiciary Committee priorities

Pursuant to Joint Rule 314(7), we are reporting our committee's priorities for final passage of the nine bills reported out of our committee that are headed to or now on the Appropriations Table. We are providing a list of the top four bills to which the Judiciary Committee has agreed.

1. LD 872, An Act To Improve the Quality of Guardian ad Litem Services for the Children and Families of Maine

Consistent with our earlier letter, we unanimously support funding for LD 872, An Act To Improve the Quality of Guardian ad Litem Services for the Children and Families of Maine as the highest priority of the Judiciary Committee. Other judicial committees have worked on these issues since 2006; this bill as amended is the first comprehensive resolution of multiple concerns identified over time, many of which arose because of lack of resources. We believe it is of the utmost importance to provide funding for LD 872.

2. LD 1445, An Act To Facilitate Children's Testimony

3. LD 864, An Act Regarding Service of Small Claims Notices

4. LD 1424, An Act To Increase Mileage Reimbursement and Compensation for Jurors

The remaining bills are generally of equal weight. We note that LD 1068 has a minimal increase in costs. We are happy to meet with members of your committee on any or all bills.

Thank you for your consideration.