

April 27, 2023

100 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Testimony in support of LD 1666 “An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Updating the State Supplement and Removing Marriage Disincentives”

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Stace Atter and I am a self-advocate. I am active in Speaking Up For Us. I am a person who lives with a disability.

I would like this bill to pass. I currently receive SSDI, and though this bill is only for SSI I still think it is important for people to have an increase. Having access to more income would help me live a better life. It could help me save to go on vacation and visit with my family. They live too far away from me right now and getting there costs money.

In the future I have thought about getting married. But the thought of losing my income would make me very angry. I would be irritated if I lost my income. I currently can't work over 20 hours or I lose my benefits. I need my benefits because I live in shared living and I get community supports to live my life.

I think self-advocates should be able to get married if they choose without having a penalty. I think self-advocates should have the same rights as everyone else.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. I will be available to answer questions by email.

Sincerely,

Stace Atter

atter.stacy85@yahoo.com