

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 Sarah Trites and I live in Sabattus. I am a self-advocate and serve on the Board of Speaking Up For Us.

I am in favor of LD 1666. I think this bill would greatly help people who are on SSI. This could mean that people can marry who they want to and not lose money.

Because the cost of living is so high, the cost of medical equipment is high and if you have less money, you are not able to purchase some of the equipment that you need to help you live as independently as you want to. I do know some stories of people who weren't able to get married in other states because of the marriage penalty.

This doesn't necessarily affect me directly, because I have just straight social security. However, have many friends and fellow self-advocates who have gone through this. This will greatly help them live the lives the way they choose to live.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Trites
Sabattus, ME
sarahjt65@yahoo.com