

April 30, 2023

Good Morning/Afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Vickie Morgan, I am a resident of Norway and I am here today to testify **in favor of LD 1666 “An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Updating the State Supplement and Removing Marriage Disincentives”**.

Supplemental Security Income is meant to protect older and disabled Americans from experiencing extreme poverty.

The poverty rate is much higher for married couples than it is for two individuals living in the same household. For this reason, the State Supplement to Supplement Security Income should not be decreased for married couples. A couple who chooses to live together receives the same benefit amount as individuals. This discourages couples from getting married because of financial reasons, even though it is what they truly want.

If the benefit for married couples is the same for two individuals, this would lower their poverty rate and allow them to improve their lives

In closing, I urge you to **pass LD 1666**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Vickie Morgan*

Vickie Morgan

Norway