



Testimony of Sarah Woodbury, Vice President of Programs and Policy, Defend Our Health
In Support of LD 1578, “An Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the
United States by National Popular Vote”
Before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee
January 8, 2024

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee; My name is Sarah Woodbury, and I am the vice president for programs and policy for Defend Our Health. Defend Our Health’s mission is to make sure that everyone has equal access to safe food and drinking water, healthy homes and products that are toxic-free and climate friendly. Please accept this testimony in support of LD 1578, “An Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote”.

It may seem curious that an organization that works on environmental health issues would engage in issues around the national popular vote. As we see it, one person one vote is the very bedrock of our democratic system, and a functioning democracy is necessary to protect the health and environment of its citizens. We should do everything we can to make sure that every citizen has a voice in electing our President.

Under the current system of electioning our president, states like Maine are often left out of the conversation with presidential candidates only paying attention to a narrow set of issues that are important in a handful of closely divided battleground states. There have been five presidents that have been elected without winning the popular vote, which goes against the principles of democratic rule. The constitution does not define how electors from each state must be apportioned and each state is allowed to decide how electoral votes are apportioned. Adopting the national popular vote will allow every vote to count while maintaining the electoral college system in place. National popular vote has been enacted in by 16 other states and the District of Columbia.

LD 1578 will make sure that every citizen’s vote will matter, regardless of where they live or their political party. It will mean that presidential candidates will have to pay attention to the issues that matter to Maine voters and all voters in Maine will have their voices heard. Therefore, Defend Our Health urges the committee to unanimously vote “ought to pass” on LD 1578.

Thank you.