

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine

March 9, 2025

Re: LD 818, An Act to Allow Expenditure of Maine Clean Election Act Funding for the Care of Candidates' Dependents

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and Honorable Members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important matter. My name is Anne Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing in support of LD 818.

My interest in this bill stems, in part, from my years as a single parent struggling to ensure my young children had proper care while I attended law school fulltime. Often, I did not have the funds to pay for childcare, so I either brought my children to class or asked classmates to care for them on an emergency basis while I was in class. I was thrilled when my university provided a stipend for childcare.

This bill, LD 818, matters to me because I believe allowing clean election candidates to use public funding to cover costs associated with caring for dependents throughout their campaign is not only reasonable, but also allows a class of people to run for public office who might not otherwise due to dependent care obligations. This bill, if passed, opens a door primarily for women, but, indeed, for some men, too, to run for public office despite current dependent care obligations.

By using the term “dependent family care,” as opposed to the more limiting “childcare,” it covers not only the important category of childcare, but also elder care and care of individuals with disabilities.

If Maine’s government is to be representative of women and men from all backgrounds, we must remove any barriers to serving.

Thank you for considering my appeal. I urge you to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 818.

Anne Gallaudet, Scarborough, ME