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President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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Testimony in Support of
LD 818, An Act to Allow Expenditure of Maine Clean Election Act Funding
for the Care of Candidates' Dependents
Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
March 10, 2025

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Mattie Daughtry. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Senate District 23, including Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth. I am honored to co-sponsor LD 818, “An Act to Allow Expenditure of Maine Clean Election Act Funding for the Care of Candidates' Dependents,” a bill that recognizes the importance for caring for a loved one.

In my family, we have always taken care of each other. It’s not an obligation, it’s an understanding that people are just as important as any job. And sometimes, caring for people is a full-time job. Especially in a state with the nation’s oldest population, and the significant costs and barriers people often meet as they age, become ill, or experience a disability.

Maine has always prided itself for having a citizen’s legislature and for electing people who represent the average Mainer to higher office. If we want to keep living up to this standard, we have to give people providing care to a loved one a path to being elected.

LD 818 provides a simple way to do this: ensure that caregiving candidates can campaign like anyone else by allowing them to use their Maine Clean Elections funds to pay for alternative care while they are participating in a campaign activity.

This bill is part of a bigger effort in Maine to recognize the significance of family caregiving. This is an effort that has largely been led by my colleague, Rep. Cloutier, who secured a pilot program to provide grants to family caregivers, and who worked with me to establish a Paid Family and Medical Leave law in Maine (PFML). PFML will allow Maine workers a way to care for their loved one without risking their job. Maine candidates deserve a way to do this without risking their campaigns.

I respectfully urge my colleagues to pass LD 818. With this step, we can help fulfill our Maine values of caring for the people we love, and ensuring all people have the chance to run for office in our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

President of the Senate, Senate District 23
Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth