

March 17, 2025
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Testimony in support of LD 834 “An Act to Update the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income”

Dear Senator Ingwerson, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Jennifer Francis and I live in Beals, Maine. I am a self-advocate and currently involved with Speaking Up For Us. I am testifying in support of LD 834 because it is important to me. This bill takes away the disincentives for a couple for whom both receive social security income and increases and updates Maine’s portion of SSI.

I am a person who has a social security income because of my Intellectual disability and my husband Daniel Francis also is a person who has a social security income because of his Intellectual disability, and we would benefit from the income being updated to today’s standards. With a little bit of extra income, I could afford the gluten-free diet that I cannot afford today due to my medical diagnosis.

There is no reason why the income should be taken from people who get married. When you get married you still have bills to pay. People should not lose their money when they get married.

This bill is important to me because I know that there are people that would like to have more spending money. I can’t believe they took the money from our income to begin with.

This bill will help me: It will help us have a little more money at the end of the month to help us with our expenses.

This bill will help others: Other people can have more money to pay for their expenses and it will allow them to save a little bit and it won’t take so long to save for the things they need.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Leigh Francis
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