

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

**Testimony in support of LD 840“An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Removing Marriage Disincentives”**

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

My name is Eric McVay. I am a self-advocate, and I live in Bangor. I'm a member of Speaking Up For Us, Maine's Self-Advocacy Network for adults with developmental disabilities. I also represent Maine on a national self-advocacy organization called Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered. I am in support of LD 840 to make SSI modern and remove the marriage penalty.

I am in favor of this bill because people with developmental disabilities should be able to get married and not have to feel the consequences of losing any of their benefits. Also, in the United States when everyone else can get married, but we are being singled out because we have disabilities. These are antiquated, outdated rules.

I ask you to vote in favor of LD 840.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric McVay  
Bangor, ME  
ericdonald240@gmail.com