

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 Marco Orlando and I live in Brewer. I am a self-advocate, and I represent Speaking Up For Us as the Vice-Chairman on their Board of Directors.

I am someone who lives with a disability, so I am on a limited income because of it. I am writing in support of LD 840. I myself am not in a position to where I can marry or raise a family. I don't see that happening for me, but I would love to see that happen for other people like me. I feel this ties in with my overall belief of challenging people's perceptions of what they think people with disabilities are capable of.

I often see people with disabilities settling for less than they deserve because society thinks that is what they can do/deserve. Because of this, a lot of folks miss out on the normal everyday life milestones that everyone else takes for granted, such as marrying and raising a family. If that is what a person wants, they should be able to get married without losing income and benefits.

In general, I feel people should be encouraged to take part in the normal everyday life activities that everyone else does, and they shouldn't have to risk losing their benefits to do it. This legislation is a huge step toward leveling the playing field for people like us.

Please consider my request to support LD 840 in full during this legislative session and not just let this bill expire on the table in Appropriations.

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

Sincerely,

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Brewer, ME  
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