

Dave McCrea
Fort Fairfield
LD 1356

Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

Thank you for allowing me to join you today, to voice my support for LD 1356. My name is Dave McCrea and I'm a former State Representative from Fort Fairfield in Aroostook County. I spent my entire career teaching here, and I'm a proud member of both the Maine Education Association and the National Education Association. I feel strongly about participating today because, quite frankly, the feelings of voters in the Second District may well not be accurately reflected by people from other parts of the state and vice versa for that matter.

As I'm sure you know, other than the state of Nebraska, Maine has a unique way of allocating our electoral votes. While to some, this system may not always make for the cleanest graphics or maps on television on election nights, this system has proven a fair one which best ensures that all constituents in our state are heard from and fairly represented.

There are a number of benefits to our current system. Currently, this is a system which accounts for the diversity of our state's population and its varying needs. We all know that folks living down in the greater Portland area have different needs and circumstances than those living here in Fort Fairfield; the needs in a town like Bath are different than those residing in Millinocket. Our current electoral system ensures that our state's electoral votes equitably reflect the unique perspectives and needs of all Mainers.

Another benefit to maintaining our current system? Campaigns cannot ignore we Mainers! As recent history has proven, elections these days are close and can literally all come down to that one electoral college vote. Last year, the major party candidates for President spent over \$1.9 billion on just over 90 electoral votes - meaning that each electoral vote is worth about \$20 million!

Perhaps it's because our elections are becoming so close and contentious that outsiders are trying to change how we run things here in Maine and Nebraska. There's an effort underway in Nebraska to force a winner-take-all approach to electoral votes - a move which would undoubtedly place enormous pressure on Maine lawmakers to adopt an identical measure. This would be disastrous for Maine, engulfing our state in a toxic campaign and unnecessarily distracting all of you from getting crucial work done on the real issues on which Mainers deserve results.

LD 1356 is a way to calm and de-escalate the debate while maintaining the current equilibrium in both Nebraska and Maine. It sends a clear message to outside political forces that we know they don't have the best interests of Mainers - or Nebraskans - at heart by playing politics with our values.

The electoral system that we have now in Maine is working and must be protected at all costs. That's what LD 1356 does. In such divisive times, there are far more pressing issues to focus on than needlessly fending off outside influences with their own political agendas. Passing this legislation best ensures that valuable time and resources can continue to be spent on the quality of life and socio-economic issues which affect all Mainers.

Thank you for your time.