

TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman

The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chairs

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: April 24, 2025

RE: LD 1666 – An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs,

My name is Kimberly Cregeur, and I live in Cape Elizabeth. I am testifying **in support** of LD 1666.

I moved to Maine from a state that didn't use ranked choice voting. The first time I voted here, my ballot used ranked choice voting for town council candidates. Not only was the process clear and easy to use, it offered me a better, more meaningful choice than in my previous voting experience. We had three candidates running for a single seat, and although I felt that two of them represented my views, one of them clearly did not. With ranked choice voting, I could more easily use my vote for the leadership I desired, and perhaps more importantly, the type of leadership I did not.

RCV becomes even more meaningful when used in state races where candidates are identified by party. Instead of worrying about "splitting the vote", voters can be assured that the governor and state legislators truly represent the majority of voters.

At this critical juncture, ranked choice voting is a simple improvement to the way we vote. It is also a vital step in preserving the people's choice for those who would represent our voice.

I urge the committee to support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony.