



**Testimony of Marge Kilkelly on Behalf of
the Maine Council on Aging to the
Judiciary Committee**

In Favor of LD 1898 An Act to Correct Outdated
References Regarding the Maine Human Rights Act

Submitted May 12, 2025

Thank you Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Marge Kilkelly, and I am a Policy Consultant for the Maine Council on Aging (MCOA) which is a broad, multidisciplinary network of over 140 organizations, businesses, municipalities, and older community members working to ensure we can all live healthy, engaged, and secure lives with choices and opportunities as we age at home and in community settings. The MCOA is a unifying force across sectors that is creating a new narrative about aging and older people in Maine with the goal of building local, statewide, and national support for the systemic changes needed to support our new longevity.

I am testifying in Favor of LD 1898 An Act to Correct Outdated References Regarding the Maine Human Rights.

The introduction to the policy of the Maine Human Rights Act is “To protect the public health, safety and welfare, it is declared to be the policy of this State to keep continually in review all practices infringing on the basic human right to a life with dignity,”

The stated purpose Maines protection from abuse statute is “To recognize domestic abuse as a serious crime against the individual and society, producing an unhealthy and dangerous family environment, resulting in a pattern of escalating abuse, including violence, that frequently culminates in intrafamily homicide and creating an atmosphere that is not conducive to healthy childhood development;”

This legislation is necessary to clarify that under the Maine Human Rights Act it remains unlawful to discriminate against a person if they sought a protection order under a section of law that was repealed in 2023 or a substantially similar law of another state or nation.

A person seeking a protection from abuse order is in fear of harm or even loss of life for themselves or persons for whom they are responsible; they have already experienced the trauma of abuse and the difficult process to seek or receive a protection order.

I urge your support of LD 1898 to prevent the revictimization of people who have already taken strong stands to protect themselves and loved ones.