

March 17, 2025

Re: LD 840: An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to  
Supplemental Security Income by Removing Marriage Disincentives

Dear Senator Ingerswen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the  
Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am here to testify in support to: An Act to Update the State Supplement to  
Supplemental Security Income.

My name is Kile Pelletier. I am a self-advocate for Aroostook County Area. I  
have been on the board of Speaking Up For Us, I am also now working for  
Disability Rights Maine.

I have been trying to eliminate the marriage penalty for many years. When  
my wife and I got married- we are facing the wrath of the marriage penalty.  
When we got married, my wife's social security payments went down to  
zero because they combined our payments. It affected me a lot because  
my wife doesn't work and I have to put a lot of barriers to provide for my  
wife and I. Also, the things she needs, I have to buy with the money I earn.  
She has a disability herself, the benefits specialist told her she can only  
work four hours a week or risk losing her benefits.

A husband and wife should be able to have their income and provide for  
each other- not just one person putting a lot of work on themselves to take  
care of their family because of the system. It's cruel and not right to  
penalize people who want to get married, just because they love each  
other. Yes, we have a disability, but we are our own people. We are just  
like everyone else. We tell our stories every time that we testify, we wish  
you would understand that we are people too.

That is why I urge you to vote in favor of LD 840.