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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. James Dill introducing

**LD 1055 "An Act to Prohibit Discrimination in Access to
Anatomical Donations and Organ Transplants"**

Before the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich and distinguished members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Jim Dill, and I represent House District 26 and the communities of Bradley, Old Town and Penobscot Nation Voting District. I am here before you today to present LD 1055 "An Act to Prohibit Discrimination in Access to Anatomical Donations and Organ Transplants".

This is a rather simple bill that just allows individuals with disabilities to be assessed for inclusion on the recipient list for organ transplants. I've brought this bill forward on behalf of my niece, who is 37 and has Down's Syndrome. She has also had two minor heart attacks, but if needed, she wouldn't be eligible for a heart transplant, because of her disability. She had her own apartment and held a job bussing tables. However, because of her condition she now lives with her parents and is unable to work.

I certainly believe that since she was a productive member of society, and if needed, she certainly, at least, should have the opportunity to be assessed to see if she would be eligible for the recipient list.

I'd be happy to try to answer any questions, thank you.