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Judicial Branch testimony neither for nor against LD 1618, Resolve, to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Dedicated Family Court in Maine:

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Julie Finn and I represent the Judicial Branch. I would like to provide some brief testimony neither for nor against LD 1618.

The Judicial Branch takes no position on this bill and would be happy to be involved in such an effort. The bill's sponsor consulted with us before submitting the bill and the legislation appropriately includes two members from the Judicial Branch. These members would likely include a District Court judge, a Family Law Magistrate or the Family Process Manager.

The two appointments would be made by the Chief Justice and would not need to be secondarily made by the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate. There is language that has been used in other studies: "The review committee shall invite the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to designate two members of the judicial branch to serve as a member of the committee."

Thank you for your time.