



# Administrative Office of the Courts

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## **Judicial Branch testimony neither for nor against LD 1842, An Act to Establish Stepparent Visitation Rights**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Barbara Cardone and I represent the Judicial Branch. I would like to provide the following testimony neither for nor against this bill to address the fiscal implications of this bill.

LD 1842 would create a new cause of action in the District Courts for stepparents to obtain court-ordered visitation with a stepchild. The bill establishes a process similar to grandparent visitation matters, but with some distinctions.

While it is not possible to estimate exactly the volume of cases this bill would create, it would necessarily increase the number of filings in the District Court as any new cause of action does. Therefore, the Maine Judicial Branch will be submitting a fiscal note seeking the resources commensurate with what it thinks would be necessary to process these matters.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.