



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Rep. Kristen Cloutier in support of*  
**LD 440, An Act to Conserve the Frances Perkins Homestead National Historic Landmark**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I am Kristen Cloutier and I proudly represent House district 60, which is part of the City of Lewiston. I am here to provide testimony in support of **LD 440, An Act to Conserve the Frances Perkins Homestead National Historic Landmark.**

In her position as Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins was the first female cabinet secretary, and a trailblazer in so many ways. She championed legislation and labor policies that created social and economic safety nets, including Social Security, banning child labor and developing the nation's unemployment insurance and compensation systems – most of which we take for granted today.

Located in Newcastle, Maine, the Frances Perkin's Homestead was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2014 and now provides visitors with the opportunity to learn about the legacy of Frances Perkins. In 2018, Maine Preservation designated the site as one of Maine's most endangered historic sites. This past year, the Frances Perkins Center, owner of the Homestead, received the prestigious "Save America's Treasures" grant from The National Park Service. In order to receive the \$500,000 awarded, the Center must provide \$824,000 in matching funds.

This bill would provide one-time funds, in the amount \$100,000, to the Frances Perkins Center. This would help the Center meet the grant requirements, ensuring the public has continued safe and accessible access to the Homestead.

This historic landmark not only generates economic benefit to the surrounding local communities, but it is also a statewide asset that we should be proud to support. Frances Perkins was not only a pioneer for women in government, her advocacy and leadership systematically changed our country and as Mainers we are lucky to have the opportunity to preserve her homestead, honor her hard work on behalf of all Americans and preserve Maine history for future generations.

I am proud to support LD 440, and ask that you do the same. Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.