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To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Regarding L.D. 492, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for Parental Rights".

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony before you today. I'm Penny Morrell, taxpayer and citizen of the Town of Belgrade, Maine.

I support LD 492, "RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for Parental Rights".

The wording of this bill is astonishing to think we would even need such an amendment to our Constitution. However, because of the times we are living in, such a statement is fitting to leave no question as to who children belong to. They are not wards of the state, but Divinely appointed as subject to parents only. The state or any entity outside the home should have no jurisdiction over children under the age of 18.

Parents love their children, period. Some do better at parenting than others, to be sure. But all parents want to do their best and want the best for their kids. Government, or any bureaucracy never will have the best interests of the kids in mind more than their own reason to exist. There is a safety net in place in this bill for abuse, neglect or criminal acts by minors.

I urge this committee to vote "ought to pass" on LD 492. Thank you.