

President: Catherine H. Moore
Vice President: Sharon W. Peavey
Secretary: Heidi Jordan
Treasurer: Carol J. Lovejoy
Director:

March 31, 2025

132nd Maine State Legislature
Judiciary Committee
Hon. Senator Anne Carney, Chair
Hon. Representative Amy Kuhn, Chair
Room 438
State House Station 100
Augusta ME 04333

In RE: LD- 1175 An Act Regarding the Appointment and Payment of Counsel for Indigent Parents and Minors

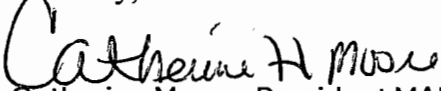
Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Catherine Moore, and I am the Register of Probate for Lincoln County and President of the Maine Association Registers of Probate (MARP), and I am speaking on behalf of MARP in **Opposition** of LD-1175. While this bill would take the (fiscal) burden off the Counties, the Probate Courts would have to abide by MCILS standards which may be difficult, and our cases could be set back months if attorneys must be rostered and go through the MCPD'S appointment process.

The current process of Court Appointments in Probate Court proceedings allows Courts to appoint attorneys with experience and knowledge of probate law. These appointments are currently paid by the Probate Courts with funds allocated through county budgets. It is a system that has been working well for several years.

We don't see how it benefits our Courts to have backlog with a system that already does not appear to have enough attorneys to support the need or the money to pay them. If our State cannot find attorneys for those in jail and inmates are going to be released if they are not appointed counsel within 2 weeks, how are they going to find attorneys and money to pay appointees in our cases?

Sincerely,


Catherine Moore, President MARP