

March 31, 2025

100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**Testimony in Support of LD 1173 Resolve, to Establish a Group to Study the Laws Governing the Guardianship of Adults and Ongoing Parental Rights of Parents of Disabled Adults**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Cindy Thielen, and I live in Bangor. I am a self-advocate, meaning I am a person who lives with a disability. I am also a member of Speaking Up For Us, Maine's Self-Advocacy Network.

I am in support of LD# 1173 because it is important to look at how guardianship affects self-advocates. I was under guardianship for years and I didn't always feel like what I wanted was considered or how guardianship affected me.

I think it would also be important for you to include a self-advocate and a parent in the membership group. Parents and self-advocates are at the center of this and should be included in this.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Thielen  
Bangor, ME  
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