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Raymond
LD 175

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Maine Legislative Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, thank you for your service!

I testify today on LD 175 - RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Ensure That Only Citizens of the United States May Participate in Elections. This legislation is proposed to you by Rep. Libby of Auburn. I am fully supportive of her legislation and ask that you each join her in doing what your elected role calls for, protecting, supporting and making Maine a better place for Maine people (citizens). The concept of new people and growing Maine's population is certainly an important discussion and task; however, it is not what this legislation is about or seeks to accomplish.

You absolutely will receive the list of things that are reserved for citizens, I will not post it for you again other than to point out that both major political parties in Maine would not allow anyone into their "conventions" who did not qualify and belong. This stands out to me when discussing non citizens.

In my Christian faith I was told but also had to make mistakes and learn about how to share that faith. Yelling Jesus is Lord is not necessarily a way to share my faith. Acting like Jesus to the point that someone notices my joy and wants to know about is the better approach. So, (please do not confuse my point) I too than look at how Maine can be best (and help more) and see that when we have our state thriving such as with budgets, jobs and yes, with people who have chosen to be a Maine citizen...only than can we best support others, the poor, the needy, single families and people who perhaps have a mishap that sets them back.

I believe in immigration but not as a political pawn but as a way to enhance and grow Maine, a thing that is good for all. Until you prioritize Maine citizens, your work to help non citizens will not thrive and in fact continue to be a political football. You have the unique opportunity with the changes in Washington DC to do the right thing in Maine, get our house in order...allow Maine the chance to look at what "thriving" might be.

Thank you again and know I pray for you all and appreciate your service.

Mike