

March 10th, 2025

Dear Members of the Veterans And Legal Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my support of **LD818, An Act to Allow Expenditure of Maine Clean Election Act Funding for the Care of Candidates' Dependents**. My name is Victoria Pelletier and I serve as the Programs and Partnerships Manager of [RepresentWomen](#), a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to building women's political power through systems strategies that help more women run, win, serve, and lead. I've also just finished serving in public office as the second Black woman elected to the Portland, Maine City Council. From one public servant to another, thank you for your tireless work to make Maine a better place for all of us.

We all know Maine is a trailblazer, especially when it comes to representation. We're one of the few states that have adopted Ranked Choice Voting, have scored an A grade two years in a row on [RepresentWomen's Gender Parity Index](#), and have been a welcoming place for so many to call home. We lead with fierce advocacy in our policymaking, push back against barriers that marginalize us, and shatter glass ceilings that attempt to limit us.

Supporting LD818 isn't just the right thing to do, it should be an *easy* thing to do, as we continue towards dismantling the structures that stop so many parents and caregivers from running for office. We know representation isn't just important, it's imperative to ensure that when we create policies, the people with the lived experience are in the room with us. We can't truly create a framework for the next generation of leaders if our current policies prevent those who are shaping that generation, from accessing the table.

I urge you to pass LD818, and let's continue to surprise people with the power, strength and advocacy that comes from Maine. As we all know, running for office is no small feat, and there are a million things we need to think about before we take the leap - the cost of childcare shouldn't be one of them. If we're truly a state that wants to ensure public office remains accessible for all, passing Campaign Funds for Childcare should be a seamless process.

Let's lead with equity and intersectionality, and continue to show the caregivers of Maine that they deserve the same opportunity to serve their communities through policymaking. I look forward to you all helping to make this a possibility so that we can truly have a representative democracy.

Thank you and keep up the good work,



Victoria Pelletier
Maine Resident, Programs and Partnerships Manager
RepresentWomen