



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

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TO: Senator Lawrence Bliss, Senate Chair
Representative Charles R. Priest, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

DATE: April 27, 2009

RE: LD 1020 An Act To End Discrimination in Civil Marriage and Affirm Religious
Freedom (Senator Damon, Sponsor)

The League of Women Voters is pleased to submit this testimony in support of LD 1020.

After months of study and discussion, the League of Women Voters of Maine has reached concurrence with the League of Women Voters of Maryland in favor of marriage equality. Individual members of the League of Women Voters of Maine began studying the issue of marriage equality in January, and then members met in Portland, Brunswick and Ellsworth in April and May to discuss the position previously adopted by the League of Women Voters of Maryland. Based on the recommendations of the three local Leagues, the state League issued the final position, which reads as follows:

The League of Women Voters of Maine supports equal rights for all under Maine law. LWVME supports legislation to equalize the legal rights and benefits available to same-sex couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVME supports legislation to permit same-sex couples to marry. The League believes that the civil status of marriage should be clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights should be preserved. LWVME believes that Maine should recognize the civil unions and same-sex marriages of other states.”

This position reflects the consensus view of our members. Based on that position, the League endorses LD 1020 and urges that this committee vote Ought to Pass.

Ann Luther, Co-president
League of Women Voters of Maine
27 April 2009