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THE MAINE HERITAGE POLICY CENTER

**Testimony in Opposition of LDs 418 and 816
“An Act To Implement the National Popular Vote for
President” and “An Act To Implement the National
Popular Vote for President of the United States”**

Senator Luchini, Representative Schneck, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Adam Crepeau and I serve as policy analyst at The Maine Heritage Policy Center. Thank you for the opportunity today to testify in opposition to LDs 418 and 816, two bills that seek to implement National Popular Vote for presidential elections in Maine.

The Founding Fathers feared tyranny of the majority, which is why they established this country as a representative democracy. The system they devised for presidential elections, known as the Electoral College, is comprised of 538 electors. Each state is allotted an elector for each member in its congressional delegation. To win the presidency, a candidate must obtain the votes of 270 individual electors. This process ensures the electorate of each individual state has a voice in selecting our nation’s chief executive.

Without the Electoral College, presidential candidates could campaign in a small handful of states with the largest population centers, outright neglect the interests of rural states like Maine, and still receive enough votes to be declared winner. Under a National Popular Vote system, Maine voters would have less say in who becomes our chief executive. Again, this would further enable presidential candidates to ignore Maine’s unique and diverse interests in pursuit of winning states with larger populations.

Maine is one of two states, along with Nebraska, that currently splits its electoral votes. Half of our four electors go to the winner of the statewide popular vote, and one elector goes to the winner of the popular vote in both of Maine’s congressional district. This is perhaps the most fair and unique way of allocating electoral votes. If anything, Maine citizens should be pushing for this method to extend to the rest of the states.

Lastly, The Maine Heritage Policy Center believes the National Popular Vote compact is an underhanded way of working around the United States Constitution. Instead of proponents of this legislation working to change the United States Constitution, they are trying to implement this system state by state to overcome the protections created by the Founding Fathers.

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Therefore, The Maine Heritage Policy Center strongly opposes LDs 418 and 816 and urges the committee to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on both of these bills. Thank you.