

Jason Read  
Portland  
LD 512

While the free community college program is of great benefit to many in Maine it also works to undermine the state university system and, more importantly, many students in Maine. With respect to the former the state university system has seen massive enrollment declines and is unable to compete with a free education. The state is effectively robbing Peter to pay Paul, undermining the institutions it needs to develop the knowledge to compete in the twenty-first century. With respect to the latter many students would benefit from a four year college program. Even those who transfer would miss out on important course work, on programs like five year degree completion programs in law and other Master's degrees.