

Sue Ishaq
Orono
LD 512

As a faculty member at the University of Maine, I have spoken with many students who were disrupted by the pandemic for several years, and who are having trouble affording a college education because of that disruption. Many of our students are facing a higher cost of living, a higher cost of education, and are providing more support for their families back home. Many students are working one or more jobs to afford their education, and a lack of funding support is one of the reasons students have to leave school. By providing financial support to Maine students, we ensure that they have access to a high quality education at our excellent community colleges here in Maine, and that they can afford to pursue careers which in turn benefit the Maine community.