

Melinda Butler
University of Southern Maine
LD 512

“Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and other members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Melinda Butler, my pronouns are she, hers. and I am an assistant professor in Literacy Education at the University of Southern Maine and I am here to testify in support of LD 512, An Act to Promote Student Enrollment and Degree Completion in the University of Maine System by Providing Tuition Waivers to Eligible Students.

The Free Community College program is an excellent program and provides such a service to Maine families. However, as a result of this program and other factors, the University of Maine system has seen undergraduate student enrollment declines in recent years. Providing tuition waivers for eligible students to promote student enrollment in the University of Maine system makes sense; some of Maine students’ career goals can be better achieved in a four-year college setting.