



CITY OF AUGUSTA, MAINE

Parks & Recreation

April 13, 2023

BRUCE CHASE
DIRECTOR

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and Members of the 131st Legislature's Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

As the Director of Augusta Parks & Recreation, I would like to testify in support of LD 1367 An Act Regarding the Funding Formula for Adult Education. In the summer of 2022, Augusta Adult and Community Education relocated to the Buker Community Building, where Augusta Parks & Recreation also reside. The two programs have begun partnering to offer community education and enrichment programs. This is a partnership that will only continue to grow.

Working alongside the staff at Augusta Adult and Community Education, I have seen firsthand how important this programming is to our community as a whole. Working with the director, I began to understand how grossly underfunded Adult Education is at the state level. Our city has done a great job supporting our local Adult Education program but I fear this is not the case for other Adult Education programs.

It was brought to my attention that the state subsidy for Adult Education has only seen a slight increase in years past. This doesn't sit well with me. Being a witness to the students and community members that are served in our local Adult Education program, I can't help but ask, why hasn't this been looked at sooner? Maine Adult Education programming is a vital program in our state, educating students and community members from all walks of life.

I urge you to take the necessary steps to evaluate and change the funding formula for Adult Education in Maine.

Thank you for your time.

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