



April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

To introduce myself, I am Brian Harris, the Co-Founder and CEO of MedRhythms, a company based in Portland, Maine, that is building innovative products at the intersection of neuroscience, technology, and music, with the vision to revolutionize medicine and bring important care to people across Maine and around the world. Today, I am writing in support of LD 416 *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and Commercialization*, as I believe that this is a critical step toward securing necessary funding that will set the foundation for companies like ours to succeed, put Maine on the map as having an innovative culture, and most importantly with companies like MedRhythms, help more people get access to the care that they need.

While we have been fortunate to take advantage of funds supplied by the Maine Technology Institute for our Research and development (R&D) in the past, so much more can be done. Looking at the statistics, R&D spending in Maine represents 1.0% of total gross domestic product (GDP), compared to 3.0% nationwide. This ranks Maine 44th of the 50 states, so we can clearly do better. Being born and raised in Maine (as is our other Co-Founder), we were excited to move MedRhythms back to Maine after starting in Boston, as we were passionate about the state, the economy, and wanted to be a part of changing the narrative around the economy of Maine. We wanted to build an iconic global company and believed that we could do it from Maine, and we still do. The money from this Bond, would not only enable, but also attract other innovative companies to build successful organizations in the state to positively impact the economy and the people of the state of Maine.

Additionally, the recent growth of the Roux Institute has garnered national attention and planted the seed for innovation to grow here from the academic side, and this funding would be the water on this seed to help research, companies, and innovation grow here. It is through this lens that I whole-heartedly support LD 416.

Sincerely,

*Brian Harris*

Brian Harris  
Co-Founder & CEO  
MedRhythms, Inc.