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It is our mission to build strong communities, families and individuals by fostering respect and promoting a healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Margaret R. Rotundo, Senator Melanie F. Sachs, Representative Co-Chairs, Appropriations and Financial Affairs LD 416 SP 197 In Support April 24, 2023 10:00am State House, Room 228

As the interim CEO of the Down East Family YMCA, Ellsworth, I am providing testimony in support of LD416 SP 197, An Act To Authorize A General Fund Bond Issue For Research And Development And Commercialization.

A similar bond passed in 2017, and this investment was the catalyst for our successful partnership with The Jackson Laboratory, providing childcare services to over 100 working families and 150 children. This partnership is a unique example of the economic benefits of Research and Development investment in a community.

Our Board of Directors and staff leadership team strives to leverage our trusted position in the community to provide high quality services and programs in support of working parents and families.

The Down East Family YMCA is a powerful advocate for the health and well-being of the many communities we serve throughout the region, and we advocate in support of LD 416.

Respectively submitted,

Thomas G. Warren, Interim CEO Down East Family YMCA 238 State Street Ellsworth, ME 04605

> Down East Family YMCA Blue Hill | Bucksport | Ellsworth (207) 667-3086 | <u>defymca.org</u>