

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Jacob Hinz, a student at UMaine Orono. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of L.D. 871, An Act to Provide Support for Maine Discovery Museum's Informal Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Throughout the State.

Research has shown that 95% of the population learns about science outside of the classroom. Because of this dynamic, Museums like the MDM, this help spur young innovators and keeps our people knowledgeable about the world around them. MDM programs like the Maine Invention and Maine Science Festival and their outreach programs help rich science content reach rural communities and underserved children who usually cannot find such opportunities around them. Think of this program as one that can find diamonds in the rough since all students from these underserved communities have just as much potential as kids living around Bangor who can regularly visit the museum. State funding for the Maine Discovery Museum can only help the students of Maine reach their full potential so they can give even more of themselves back to the state in the future. This bill is an investment in our children; by funding the MDM through the state, we can help all Maine children have easier access to scientific education outside of their classroom and find the love of learning every student needs to have a successful future in STEM. As a resident of Maine and a student of UMO, this bill can only help the prospects of innovation and scientific achievement in the state of Maine and our universities. So please pass LD871 and help the Maine Discovery Museum provide an essential service to our future success.

Sincerely,

Jacob Hinz