



Maine Education Association

Grace Leavitt President | Jesse Hargrove Vice President | Beth French Treasurer
Rebecca Cole NEA Director | Rachelle Bristol Executive Director

Testimony

In Support

LD 460: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Student Success and Workforce Readiness Within the University of Maine System

LD 503: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund the Maine Community College System

John Kosinski, Government Relations Director, Maine Education Association

Before the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

April 26, 2023

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and other esteemed members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee,

My name is John Kosinski (he/him) and I am proud to serve as the Director of Government Relations for the Maine Education Association (MEA). The MEA represents 24,000 educators in the state of Maine, including teachers and other professionals in nearly every public school in the state and faculty and other professional staff in the University of Maine and Community College Systems.

I submit this testimony on behalf of the MEA in support of LD 460, *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Student Success and Workforce Readiness Within the University of Maine System*, and in support of LD 503, *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund the Maine Community College System*.

The University of Maine and Community College systems are treasures for Maine. Combined, they provide the higher education backbone for our state. They train workers in the jobs of today and inspire students to dream off the businesses of the future. We are proud to represent the full-time faculty and other professional staff in both systems. We see up-close the work they are doing with students.

But we know our campuses need updating and improvements. In today's day and age, students demand top-notch facilities, and they deserve access to up-to-date learning facilities. Not only do we need suitable dorms for students to live, but many fields today are seeing exponential growth and development, and capital infrastructure must keep pace, so our students are learning with the latest technology.

These two bonds represent significant investment in our public higher education institutions. LD 460 calls for a \$100 million bond to support capital improvements for the University of Maine system, while LD 503 proposes a \$50 million bond for the Community College system. While neither will completely

35 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330 | 1349 Broadway, Bangor, ME 04401
7 Hatch Drive, Suite 220, Caribou, ME 04736 | 29 Christopher Toppi Drive, South Portland ME 04106

207-622-5866 | 207-888-2070 fax | www.mainea.org



Maine Education Association

Grace Leavitt President | Jesse Hargrove Vice President | Beth French Treasurer
Rebecca Cole NEA Director | Rachelle Bristol Executive Director

alleviate all the needs of our public higher education systems, it will make a dent and we support both efforts.

If these measures make it to the voters for approval, we stand ready to work with our members to raise up the excellent work that is happening in both the University of Maine and Community College systems. We are confident voters will continue their support of these critical institutions of higher learning.

Thank you for your time and your service to the people of Maine.

35 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330 | 1349 Broadway, Bangor, ME 04401
7 Hatch Drive, Suite 220, Caribou, ME 04736 | 29 Christopher Toppi Drive, South Portland ME 04106

207-622-5866 | 207-888-2070 fax | www.maineea.org