



January 23, 2024

The Hon. Joseph Rafferty, Senate Chair  
The Hon. Michael Brennan, House Chair  
And Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Re: **LD 2131: An Act to Support Extended Learning Opportunities**

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Craig Larrabee, President and CEO of JMG, and I am writing in support of L.D. 2131, An Act to Support Extended Learning Opportunities.

I believe that this legislation represents a crucial step forward in providing Maine students with high-quality, real-world educational experiences that are tailored to their needs and aspirations.

JMG works in collaboration with certified Maine teachers to build out credit frameworks, accessible to all Maine secondary students, on a learning management system that ensures Extended Learning Opportunities serve as a rigorous educational pathway where student learning meets high standards of quality and aligns seamlessly with Maine Learning Standards and the state's educational objectives.

Moreover, this approach ensures that the content is finely tuned to the specific needs of Maine students while also providing opportunities for students to engage with their community and Maine's employers. By tailoring the learning experience, LD 2131 recognizes the diversity of our student population and strives to provide them with opportunities that resonate with their unique circumstances.

Extended Learning Opportunities are designed to promote equity in educational opportunities. Through Extended Learning Opportunities, Maine is seeking to bridge the gap and offer students in rural areas exposure to a broader spectrum of academic content areas and credits. This inclusivity extends to subjects such as computer science, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and more. Providing local School Administrative Units (SAUs) and educators with the flexibility to offer credits, especially for nontraditional learners, is a significant stride towards creating a more equitable educational landscape.

JMG's dedication to Extended Learning Opportunities stems from the belief that this approach is in the best interest of all students, particularly those facing disadvantages. Extended Learning Opportunities create an environment that fosters student success by allowing them to explore and pursue educational pathways aligned with their interests and aspirations. This legislation not only prioritizes academic achievement but also recognizes the holistic development of our students.

I urge you to lend your support to LD 2131, as it aligns with the principles of quality education, equity, and the overall well-being of our students. By doing so, we can pave the way for a brighter future for Maine's youth and contribute to the continued growth and success of our state.

Thank you for your dedication to the improvement of our education system. I trust that you will consider the far-reaching positive impact LD 2131 can have on the lives of countless students across Maine.

Sincerely,

Craig Larrabee  
President/CEO