

Kelly Thornhill
Portland, ME
LD 2197

My name is Kelly Thornhill and I am the assistant principal at East End Community School in Portland Maine. Thank you to the committee chairs, Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and members of the committee for reading this.

I am writing in support of LD 2197. The Boys and Girls Club is an important part of our community and I support any resources that will grow it's success for our students.

Many of our students attend The Boys and Girls Club after school program as well as summer programs. EECS is a high poverty school with many families who cannot afford to pay for after school care. The Boys and Girls Club provides families a safe place for their children to make connections with their community and flourish.

Being able to expand to support more students is needed. Many families, whether new to Portland, new to the country or long time residents use The Boys and Girls Club and often some are turned away because of availability. I support the expansion so our students have a safe place to go and grow after school.

The new Bridge to Success Center will be an amazing opportunity for our students and our community with a: mentoring space, a career exploration lab with Virtual Reality technology providing exposure to a wide range of careers, and 3 "garage bays" where practical training in the trades will take place. This is such an exciting and enriching opportunity for our students. Please consider passing the bill for the future of our students and the greater good of Maine families.

Thank you,
Kelly Thornhill
Assistant Principal, East End Community School