



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

LD 210 - An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027

In Support of Part C – Education Funding

February 7, 2025

Good afternoon Sen. Rotundo, Rep. Gattine, Sen. Rafferty, Rep. Murphy and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Rebecca Lambert and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Maine Municipal Association's elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee in support of the Governor's proposed budget, specifically Part C for education funding.

Local leaders appreciate the responsible approach taken in this budget to sustain local government funding and mitigate financial burdens on Maine residents. Additionally, this budget demonstrates a strong commitment to education funding by continuing to meet the state's obligation to fund at least 55% of public education costs. This not only provides relief to municipalities that might otherwise have to increase property taxes to cover school budgets but also ensures that Maine's students receive a high-quality education, regardless of their zip code.

Municipal officials sincerely appreciate that this budget honors commitments to municipalities and property taxpayers in a responsible and sustainable manner. By maintaining revenue-sharing, bolstering education funding, and providing targeted tax relief, the state is reinforcing its partnership with local governments and ensuring a more stable financial future for Maine's communities.

I urge the committee to support the education funding contained in Part C of the Governor's budget and continue prioritizing policies that benefit all Maine residents.

