

Andrea Wellman
Orrington
LD 210

Testimony from Andrea Wellman
Orrington, Maine

Parent of Allee Wellman, Student at CMCC

In Support of L.D. 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 (A-132 through A-134 and language EEEE)

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

February 7, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Senator Rafferty, Representative Gattine, Representative Murphy, and Members of the

Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Andrea Wellman. My hometown is Orrington, Maine and I am a parent of a student at CMCC. I am here to testify in

support of the portion of LD210 that funds the Maine Free College Program and general operating costs

at the Maine Community College System.

Thank you for the invitation to speak on behalf of Maine's Free College Program. When Governor Mills first announced the extension of the Free College Program to include the Class of 2023, we were very excited, and this helped us decide on a college. This program provides an opportunity for students who want to pursue higher education but may not be financially able or may not qualify for Federal Student Aid to still achieve their goals. The Free College Program has allowed my daughter a chance to play softball at the collegiate level and to pursue a nursing degree, all with no college debt associated with that degree. After graduation and starting her life, she will not have to worry about paying off student loans along with all of the other expenses associated with starting her adult life. I, personally, would like to see this program extended and included in the budget so that any other student that wants to pursue higher education may have the same opportunity as my family has received. This program gives the students in Maine options for education as well as keeping them in Maine.

Thank you again, Andrea Wellman