



MID-COAST

SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

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RESPECT – HONESTY – RESPONSIBILITY – EQUALITY – COURAGE

Dear Policy Leaders,

My name is Bobby Deetjen, and I am the Director of the Mid-Coast School of Technology. I am writing on behalf of students and the Maine Community College System to express my strong support for continuing the free tuition program for recent high school graduates.

This program has had a demonstrable positive impact on our students at the Mid-Coast School of Technology. We have seen firsthand how it has enabled students to continue their education who otherwise would not have been able to afford it. For many of our students, the financial burden of college is simply too great, and even seemingly small costs can be a significant barrier to pursuing their dreams. This program removes that barrier and opens doors to a brighter future.

These students are not just pursuing any degree; they are training for critical careers that are essential to the future of Maine. We are talking about the next generation of technicians, nurses, chefs, carpenters, and emergency responders – the very backbone of our communities. Without these skilled professionals, Maine's economy and future prosperity are at risk. Keeping our young talent here in Maine is vital to our state's success.

The free tuition program is an investment in Maine's future. It allows us to cultivate and retain the talent we need to thrive. I urge the Legislature to support this crucial program and ensure that all Maine students have the opportunity to pursue their educational and career goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bobby Deetjen, Director