

Jeffrey Harmon - Auburn
Cara Pelletier - Bangor
Martin Grohman - Biddeford
Carl Sheline - Lewiston
Mark Dion - Portland
Penelope York - Rockland



Jodi MacPhail - Saco
Becky Brink - Sanford
Richard Matthews - South Portland
Michael Morris - Waterville
David Morse - Westbrook

Supported By: Mitchell Tardy Jackson Government Affairs - 104 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine 04330 - 207-622-1365

**Maine Mayors Coalition Testimony on 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**

Senator Rotundo and Representative Gattine, Senator Rafferty and Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Education and Cultural Affairs, the Maine Mayors Coalition is providing testimony in support of funding for General Purpose Aid for Local Schools included in LD 210, the proposed biennial budget.

The Maine Mayors Coalition is a nonpartisan group representing the mayors of eleven Maine communities – Auburn, Bangor, Biddeford, Lewiston, Portland, Rockland, Saco, Sanford, South Portland, Waterville and Westbrook – and nearly 300,000 residents. The Coalition advocates on behalf of our citizens and municipalities for policies that recognize the vital services Maine cities provide and the positive impact Maine cities have on our state. The Coalition seeks to work in partnership with state and federal elected officials to meet the needs of Maine people.

One of our most important obligations as public officials is to our young people – they are Maine's future. Ensuring they receiving the best education possible prepares them to become thriving members of society. We thank Governor Mills and the Legislature for recognizing the importance of a strong education system and for fully sharing the cost of K-12 education with municipalities. Funding 55 percent of public education will continue to be a worthwhile investment for our state.

We should note that even with this level of funding, our schools continue to face budgetary and personnel issues. Worker shortages persist and the costs of salaries, health care and other initiatives keep rising. These issues further underscore the importance of the State's commitment to fully fund K-12 education. Otherwise, this financial responsibility would fall squarely onto our property taxpayers.

As elected officials, we understand the difficult choices facing you. Respectfully, we urge you to support maintaining 55 percent funding for General Purpose Aid as proposed in LD 210.

Thank you for your time and attention.