

Written Testimony of Annie Frey

In Opposition to

**Part CCCC of
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**

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

February 7, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Annie Frey, and I am a third year student at Saint Joseph's College in Standish, Maine and will graduate this spring. I testify today in strong opposition to Part CCCC of LD 210 (the Biennial Budget).

Part CCCC limits the use of the Maine State Grant Program to students attending Maine institutions of public higher education, thereby excluding the long time use of the Maine State Grant by Maine students wanting to attend one of Maine's independent colleges or universities.

- Growing up in Gorham, Maine, I always hoped to one day attend Saint Joseph's College of Maine. My twin sister, best friend, and I made a pact that we would all be roommates at SJC one day.
- When the time came to begin touring colleges, I did not feel a connection to any campus—until I officially toured SJC. I immediately felt at home when I stepped foot on campus. There was a sense of community, unlike anything I had experienced before. I knew SJC was where I needed to pursue higher education.
- The small class sizes fit my learning style, and I knew I would be successful here. I felt that an education from SJC would provide me with the most opportunity to make a difference in the world.
- However, there was a problem—college is expensive. My older siblings had already graduated from college and had large personal loans, and my twin and I would be going through college simultaneously. I began applying to any and all scholarships I could find,

but those still did not cut it. Receiving the Maine State Grant has made my education at SJC possible. Without the Maine State Grant, I would not have been able to afford college for more than one semester. I would not have been able to gain the education, service experiences, friends, or job opportunities that SJC has given me. I would never have been able to experience the community that SJC has to offer.

- Thanks to the Maine State Grant helping me with my education costs, I will graduate in the Spring of 2025 with a BSW, after only three years of study. I will then begin working for a non-profit organization here in Maine, applying the things I learned at this Mercy College, Saint Joseph's.

Thank you for your consideration, and I strongly urge you to vote to remove Part CCCC from the Biennial Budget.