

Written Testimony of Joanne Haibon

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 Joanne Haibon, and I am a student in the Integrated Studies Program at Saint Joseph's College in Standish, Maine. 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.

- My name is Joanne Haibon and I am a student in the Integrated Studies Program at Saint Joseph's College.
- I chose Saint Joe's because I felt most safe at that school, and it had a beautiful campus. It made me feel so good to be a part of college and be able to afford it thanks to the Maine State Grant. Without the Maine State Grant, I wouldn't have been able to continue my education at Saint Joseph's College of Maine.
- I am getting a good education and learning important skills. For example, last semester, I was in an independent study class for math. Normally I dislike math, but now, I have a better understanding of it.
- I have also learned life skills like checking my email regularly, communicating with my professors, and I have even learned how to work in a group. One more thing I have learned is to navigate campus, which means getting from place to place all on my own.

- So I close by saying thank you to the Maine State Grant for making all of these wonderful things possible.
- My long-term goal is to become a veterinary technician specializing in marine biology.

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