



February 24th, 2025

## Testimony in opposition to Language Part VV of LD 210

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Health and Human Services.

My name is Eli Durand-McDonnell, I am from Bar Harbor, Maine and I am the Policy Coordinator at Maine Youth Power, a youth-led, youth movement throughout rural and suburban Maine fighting to win human dignity, equity and a livable future for all. I am here today to ask that you oppose Language Part VV of LD210.

Maine Youth Power cares deeply about the future of this state, and believes it is important to ensure that young people, whether citizens or not, are able to thrive in Maine. These specific budget cuts ignore other viable policy actions that would help to balance the budget, and target noncitizens when they are at their most vulnerable. This will have a massive impact on young people and families that are building a future in a new country, and instead of setting these young people up for success in our great state, could severely limit their ability just to survive the present.

I believe it is both unnecessary and inhumane to make these drastic cuts to such basic services for certain noncitizens that are living in Maine. As a lifelong Mainer, I'm proud of the way that our state has welcomed immigrants into our communities, and how we have served as a national leader in our embrace of those looking for opportunity and belonging in a new country. This is an opportunity for you as lawmakers, to stand up for Mainers that may not have our same paperwork, may not have a classic Downeast drawl, and may not have been born here, but are an absolutely vital part of our community nonetheless.

Once again, I urge you to oppose Language Part VV of LD210.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Eli Durand-McDonnell