



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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To: Senator Joseph Rafferty  
Representative Kelly Noonan Murphy  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
From: Becky Smith, Director of Government and Community Relations  
BSmith@mainecc.edu; (207) 380-9171  
Re: Testimony Neither For Nor Against, LD 46: *An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Becky Smith. I am the Director of Government and Community Relations for the Maine Community College System. Please accept this testimony neither for nor against LD 46.

We appreciate the sponsor's intent and interest in helping Maine students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder access higher education. The Maine Community College System strives to serve our students to the best of our ability with the resources we have available.

As this bill does not directly affect the Maine Community College System, we are not taking a position at this time. However, if this legislation passes, and we feel we could be successful creating a sustainable program with the breadth and depth that meets the needs of these potential students—modified curriculum in the program of study, specialized curriculum and instruction in employment and career development, behavioral, intellectual, and interpersonal skill development, and intensive academic support<sup>i</sup>—we will welcome the opportunity to apply for and work with the Maine Department of Education to create such a program.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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<sup>i</sup> [Thinking About College for Students With Intellectual Disabilities \(undivided.io\)](https://www.maine.edu/thinking-about-college-for-students-with-intellectual-disabilities)