

Jennifer Lyons

Sabattus

LD 680

Testimony from Jennifer Lyons

Sabattus

In Support of L.D. 680 An Act to Support Higher Education in Maine by Providing Funds to Maine's Community Colleges.

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

March 17, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, as a parent of two special needs adult children and the Accessibility Coordinator at Central Maine Community College, I am writing you today in support of the proposed Maine Legislative bill LD 680.

As an advocate for equity in education, I support the above-mentioned funding to enrich student support services at community colleges. The additional support this funding would provide is critical in ensuring that students with challenging afflictions have the tools and resources necessary to succeed in their academic endeavors.

By investing in the students we serve, we are not only improving educational outcomes for students with challenges but also promoting a more productive learning environment for them.

With additional funding, community colleges can expand access to a variety of essential supports; such as assistive technology, group activities, additional administrative support for one-on-one academic/emotional support, housing accommodations, and physical accessibility.

I urge you to support the Maine Legislative bill LD 680 as it is necessary in ensuring community college students are served in the capacity in which they should be.

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Lyons, Accessibility Coordinator
Central Maine Community College