

Testimony from Bobby Bragdon

Gray

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, I am Bobby Bragdon, Academic Dean at Central Maine Community College, and I am writing in strong support of LD 680, An Act to Support Higher Education in Maine by Providing Funds to Maine's Community Colleges. I appreciate your leadership and commitment to ensuring that Maine's community college students have access to the critical resources they need to succeed.

At Central Maine Community College, we have seen how expanded tutoring programs, targeted supplemental instruction, and other academic supports can dramatically improve student outcomes. By providing an additional \$6 million in the first year and \$6.3 million in the second year, LD 680 would allow us to extend the reach of these services and help students overcome barriers to success. Increased academic supports not only boost retention and completion rates but also create a path toward meaningful careers and financial stability.

I was once a student at Kennebec Valley Community College. That personal experience—and the guidance, tutoring, and supplemental instruction I received—shaped my understanding of how deeply these services matter. Now, as Academic Dean at Central Maine Community College, I can attest that such support is often the difference between a student thriving in their program or feeling overwhelmed and giving up on their educational goals.

I respectfully request your support of LD 680. Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your continued commitment to opening doors for Maine's community college students.

Sincerely,

Bobby Bragdon, Ph.D.
Dean of Academic Affairs
Central Maine Community College

Email: tbragdon@mainecc.edu
Office: 207-755-5310