

TO: Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

FROM: Jared Rubin, Assistant Director of Residence Life, Central Maine Community College

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

DATE: March, 17, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I am Jared Rubin, the Assistant Director of Residence Life at Central Maine Community College, and I am writing in strong support of L.D. 680, An Act to Support Higher Education in Maine by Providing Funds to Maine's Community Colleges.

Central Maine Community College has seen significant growth in its Residence Life program, expanding from 253 students in 2017, when I was a resident hall student, to 389 students today. This increase in student population is, in part, due to our initiative to rent out an entire hotel in Auburn to accommodate additional students. CMCC offers four distinct residence hall options, with three on-campus halls housing 253 students and one off-campus facility housing 136 students.

While this growth presents exciting opportunities, it has also introduced challenges for our Residence Life staff. In order to maintain a high level of support and engagement for our growing student body, I support L.D. 680 and the investment of \$6 million in year one and \$6.3 million in year two. This funding would enable us to address these challenges by hiring additional Resident Assistants (RAs) and Resident Directors (RDs), enhancing support services, and expanding student activities. These improvements are essential for ensuring a positive and supportive environment for all of our residents.

As an alumnus of Central Maine Community College, I've seen firsthand the importance of a supportive environment in our residence halls. From being a resident student to working as an RA, RD, and now Assistant Director of Residence Life, I understand how vital staff support is to student success. Adding more RAs and RDs would enhance the support system, ensuring students receive the assistance they need on their path to graduation.

I request your support of L.D. 680 and thank you for your time and consideration for supporting CMCC's students moving forward.