

Lina Martinez Nocito
Farmington, ME
March 17, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and other esteemed members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

My name is Lina Martinez Nocito, and I am a sophomore at the University of Maine at Farmington and a legislative organizer with Maine Youth Power, a rural, youth-led movement fighting for human dignity, equity, and a livable future for all. I'm writing today to express my strong support for LD 680.

Maine's community colleges contribute hugely to our state, strengthening our workforce and making it possible for thousands of Mainers to earn degrees and certifications every year. As a student in the University of Maine System, I also know many students who complete their associate's degree at a community college, then transfer to a state university to complete their bachelor's degree; this option can make earning a four-year degree significantly more affordable. I personally have benefited from the community college system through dual enrollment early college classes that made it possible for me to complete several general education requirements before I even graduated high school. I hope you'll support Maine's excellent community college system by voting in favor of LD 680.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Lina Martinez Nocito