

Marie Louise St.Onge  
Kennebunk  
LD 1089

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Senator Grohoski and Representative Cloutier, my name is Marie Louise St.Onge, I reside and pay taxes in Kennebunk. I am writing today in favor of the spirit and direction of LD1089 and LD1047, and I thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion.

Combined, these two bills would help to address areas of significant concern to me, including equitable taxation. It is non-sensical for a person earning, for example, \$61K – at 2 to 3 jobs, to pay the same tax rate as someone earning \$1,000,000. We understand that not only are the dollars grossly disparate, but most certainly the conditions, environment, and degrees of autonomy at work are as well. The woman earning \$1M can, nearly without exception, get away from work for a dental appointment or school recital. The woman working 2 part-time jobs will likely find either of those scenarios difficult if not impossible. And so the story goes.

For too long, those with the most have, comparatively, paid the least.

LD1089 specifically addresses the needs of school districts across the State. Education is a cornerstone of sound decision making, individual security and independence, and quite frankly democracy. Currently, funding for education is in a perilous state. This should be concerning to us all. I urge members of the Committee to support LD1089 in the interest of education for all our children – they will soon be our leaders.

The passage of LD1047 would allow the State to potentially provide needed support to some our most vulnerable citizens. With the income raised via this tax, the State could be in the position to fund much needed resources such as: legal services, healthcare, childcare, shelter, and more. I urge members of the Committee to support LD1089.

I am 100% in favor of taxing those who have the greatest ability to pay and helping those who do not.

Thank you.