

Anne M. Gallaudet
Scarborough, Maine

March 25, 2025

Re: LD 1089 An Act to Permanently Fund 55% of the State's Share of Education by Establishing a Tax on Incomes of More than \$1,000,000

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and Honorable Members of the Taxation Committee

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on this important matter. My name is Anne Gallaudet. I am a resident of Scarborough, Maine. I am writing in support of LD 1089.

This bill imposes a surcharge at the rate of 4% on that portion of a taxpayer's Maine taxable income over \$1,000,000. That is, the four percent tax would only be applied to the portion of a Mainer's income that is above the \$1 million threshold. All revenue collected would be used to fund public prekindergarten to grade 12 education.

The wealthy should pay their fair share. Right now, Maine's tax code treats someone earning over \$61,600 the same as a millionaire. The tax rate should rise as people make more money as the latter have more disposable income. Our society has more income inequality than ever before, and the income divide is only growing.

This bill will impact only 1% of Maine taxpayers because 99% of Mainers have taxable income well under \$1,000,000.

LD 1089 represents a start towards correcting our tax system as well as improve our public educational system. Currently, the Maine income tax policy is progressive near the lower end, but it is unfortunately less so at the higher end with higher income people paying at rates not substantially unlike the lower ends.

Maine has a budget shortfall that disproportionately hurts the most vulnerable in Maine. LD 1089 would help substantially to increase needed Maine revenue that would go towards the public good, by supporting our public schools, infrastructure and childcare services.

Thank you for considering my appeal. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1089.

Anne Gallaudet, Scarborough, ME