

Savannah Mirisola-Sullivan
Portland
LD 1047

Good morning Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and honorable members of the Taxation Committee. My name is Savannah Mirisola-Sullivan from Portland, and I'm writing to you today in favor of LD 1047, "An Act to Impose an Additional Tax on Certain Unearned Income."

I've worked in public schools for the last eighteen years, and have been an elementary school teacher in Portland Public Schools for the last eight. This past year, I made the heartbreaking decision to step away from the classroom on a leave of absence to heal from burnout and chronic illness exacerbated by the enormous stress of classroom teaching during the pandemic.

Lack of funding to adequately staff our schools as well as a lack of resources directly contributed to my daily stress. As one small example, last year when I prepared my taxes, I saw that I spent over \$1,000 of my own income on classroom supplies- things like pencils, dry erase markers, picture books, snacks, clorox wipes, and post-it notes. This lack of resources is more pronounced in rural communities since we depend on property taxes to fund our schools, and these schools are more at risk for closure without federal funding. Teachers love their students deeply, and have dedicated their lives to serving them, but cannot be responsible for shouldering the realities of taxation inequalities.

A surcharge in capital gains would help raise over \$100 million which could directly impact our schools, as well as other critical resources for families. The economic impact of investing in elementary education is profound- in the long term, we see reduced poverty rates, better health outcomes, and increased employment rates, all of which benefit Maine.

I urge you to please pass LD 1047 for my tireless colleagues, for all of our students, and for the health of our communities today and in the future. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.