



MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) In Support of

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

March 26, 2025

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) in support of LD 1089.

This session, the LPC proactively established a platform of bills intended to bolster and support the property taxpayers of Maine. Through initiatives across the legislative board, they are committed to protecting the interests of their residents and to reducing the burden of property taxes. Increased funding for education is one avenue to reach these goals.

Municipal officials will be the first to agree that the cost of funding education is rising and is one of the primary factors of increasing property taxes. Voters have rejected more local school budgets in the last year than in recent memory. Even with the statutorily required state funding of 55% of education, municipal officials are faced with increased school budgets that allow for little to no input from the community's boards or councils. Those non-negotiable increased costs leave municipal officials with the unpopular choices of either cutting municipal services or increasing the municipal budget.

Investigating avenues of bolstering the education funding pot of money is supported by municipal officials, if there are safeguards to protect the current method of funding the required 55% of K-12 education. Any additional funds should supplement this statutory funding and not replace it.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and share the municipal perspective. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the MMA Advocacy team with any questions related to municipal operations.