

March 25, 2025

Testimony 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

Honorable members of the Maine State Legislature:

My name is Anna Brown and I am a concerned citizen from Freeport. I writing to strongly support LD 1089, an act that aims to bring fairness to our state's tax system and invest in the future of Maine's public education.

At its core, this bill seeks to create a 4% income tax surcharge on earnings above \$1 million. This surcharge will raise critical funds to support public Pre-K through 12 education, which will help our schools, students, and communities thrive.

In this period of extreme financial inequities and a rising gap between have and have-nots, there are several reasons why I believe this bill is crucial for Maine's future:

First, the wealthy should pay their fair share. Currently, Maine's tax code treats someone making \$61,600 a year the same as a millionaire. This is inherently unfair. While hardworking teachers, small business owners, and families are being asked to contribute to the state's resources, the ultra-wealthy are not paying their fair share. LD 1089 would ensure that millionaires contribute at a higher rate, reflecting their financial capacity.

Second, a tax on millionaires only affects the ultra-wealthy. It's important to note that this tax would only affect those who earn more than \$1 million annually—less than 1% of Mainers. For the vast majority of us, this will not change our taxes. Maine's tax system should reflect the reality that the ultra-wealthy have seen their taxes reduced at the state and federal levels in recent years, especially through the LePage and Trump tax cuts. It's time that the wealthy pay their fair share, just like the rest of us.

Third, this bill creates a mechanism to invest in our communities. The revenue raised from this tax surcharge is expected to be more than \$100 million annually, which will be directed toward funding education, a critical part of creating opportunity for economic and social mobility for all. This investment will strengthen our communities by ensuring that all Maine children have access to a high-quality education. In addition, a fairer tax structure removes the unfair burden that forces us to choose between funding education, healthcare, infrastructure, and other critical needs. It's time to create a tax system that works for everyone, not just the wealthy few.

Finally, this bill supports a stronger Maine for everyone – not just the wealthy. Ultimately, LD 1089 is about fairness and building a Maine where everyone can succeed. Hardworking families should not be forced to bear an unfair share of the tax burden while the ultra-wealthy continue to benefit from tax cuts that leave our schools and communities underfunded. This bill is an

opportunity to create a stronger, more equitable Maine—one where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, not just the wealthy few.

I urge you to support LD 1089. By establishing a millionaire's tax, we can ensure that Maine's tax system is fair, that our schools are adequately funded, and that all Mainers can share in the prosperity of our great state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Anna Brown