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I have been on the board of trustees of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics since September of 2022. As such I have learned what a gem this institution is. As a retired educator, I have been extremely impressed with the quality and dedication of the faculty and staff.

MSSM has been essentially flat funded for the last 8 years. With inflation, this is equivalent to a 30% decrease in real money. The administration has had to make difficult and strategic decisions to reduce staff over several years. At this point there is virtually no room for further cuts.

The other part of this bill simply changes the residency requirement to no longer require a six-month residency before enrolling at MMSM with the in-state benefits. This seems obvious to me. If someone moves from out of state to any other school district in Maine, they do not have a six month wait to send their children to school.

MSSM plays an important role in our state's education system. It gives the opportunity for students to pursue interests that would be unavailable at many of the local high schools in Maine. It also gives opportunity for families for whom other options (such as a private school) would be far out of reach.