

Josh Passarelli
Scarborough, Maine

March 31, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan Murphy, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 581, “An Act to Fund the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program.” As a lifelong Mainer and current medical student in the Maine Track Program, I have seen firsthand how scholarships like this help make medical education more accessible and allow students to train and stay in Maine.

I was born and raised in Scarborough, attended college in Maine, and chose to stay here for medical school. My decision to pursue a career in medicine was driven by my passion for both science and serving my community. The Maine Track Program has given me the opportunity to work and train in the place I call home, strengthening my connection to the people and healthcare system of Maine.

Scholarships like this help ease the financial burden of medical school, allowing students to focus on their education rather than the stress of overwhelming debt. In my case, the financial support I received made it possible for me to stay in Maine for a world-class medical education, rather than having to choose a more expensive private medical school out of state.

While my immediate future depends on the residency match process, my long-term goal is to return to Maine to practice medicine. This is my home, and both my partner and I want to build our lives and careers here.

Maintaining full funding for the Doctors for Maine’s Future Scholarship Program is critical to ensuring that students who want to train and stay in Maine have the financial support necessary to do so. This program helps strengthen Maine’s healthcare workforce at a time when it is needed most. I urge you to support LD 581 and continue investing in the future of healthcare in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Josh Passarelli