



Testimony of Joyce Campbell before
the Committee on Health and Human Services
in support of

**LD 1389: An Act to Create the Building Opportunity Through
Out-of-School Time Program**

April 8, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Joyce Campbell and I'm the Elementary Director at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine – Auburn Lewiston Clubhouse. I support LD 1389: *An Act to Create the Building Opportunity Through Out-of-School Time Program*.

Boys & Girls Clubs fill the gap between school and home. We provide welcoming, positive environments in which kids and teens have fun, participate in life-changing programs and experiences, and build supportive relationships with peers and caring adults. Boys & Girls Clubs in Maine collectively serve over 8,000 school-age youth at 18 Club sites across the state.

Research shows that afterschool and summer programs, like Boys & Girls Clubs, boost student engagement, improve attendance, reduce risky behaviors, and promote social-emotional growth. With access to homework help, healthy meals, and trusted mentors, kids thrive both in and out of the classroom. However, according to the National Afterschool Alliance, in Maine, for every one child enrolled in an afterschool program, there are five waiting to get in. Parents also recognize the benefits of afterschool and summer programs with 83% of Maine parents agreeing that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.

The BOOST bill is an exciting step toward expanding access to out-of-school time programming for Maine families, especially those that are at-risk or underserved. This grant program would help community-based organizations, including the Boys & Girls Clubs, create new programs, grow existing ones, and overcome barriers that prevent families from accessing quality care.

We offer transformative programs that foster learning, creativity, and personal development. Through Brain Gain, children engage in hands-on academic enrichment to prevent summer learning loss. Virtual reality programs provide immersive experiences that expand their knowledge of science, technology, and the world around them. The Michael Phelps learn to swim program equips members with essential water safety skills, building confidence and saving lives. Creative outlets like the sewing club and cooking club teach patience and artisanship as well as life skills, while yoga promotes mindfulness and emotional well-being.

By funding and expanding these critical resources, we are strengthening our communities by keeping kids engaged, inspired, and on a path to success. I urge policymakers to pass this act and invest in a brighter future for our youth.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Campbell

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