



The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

**Testimony in Support of LD 281  
An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology,  
Engineering, and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State**

April 7, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Deb Neuman, President and CEO of the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce and a resident of Hampden, Maine.

On behalf of the BRCC Board of Directors, I am providing testimony in support of LD 281, ***An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State***

The funding from this bill will provide critical support to three programs: the Maine Science Festival, Maine Invention Convention, and Science Around Maine. The programs this bill will support are critical to the success of not only the Bangor region, but the state of Maine.

These programs offer access to science based education and experiences to young people (and adults) who might not otherwise have access to these opportunities, particularly those in rural communities. These programs also enhance our region's and state's economy by bringing visitors, both in-state and out of state, to participate in these unique learning experiences and opportunities.

This funding will also allow the Maine Discovery Museum to provide programming at no charge to continue to further their educational outreach and impact. As is the case with many nonprofit organizations, access to funding to support existing programs of this kind has become more and more challenging given the current economic conditions and uncertainty.

This investment will pay off for many years and throughout multiple generations as we support the educational infrastructure in the sciences that will lead to future discoveries, innovation and jobs in Maine.

I urge you to support the passage of LD 281. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Deb Neuman, President and CEO  
Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce

