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April 7, 2025

Testimony of Representative Amy Roeder 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
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan Murphy and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

My name is Amy Roeder, and I represent House District 23, which includes a portion of the great City of Bangor. I write to you today 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.**

LD 281 provides partial ongoing funds to the Maine Discovery Museum (MDM) to support the Maine Science Festival, the Maine Invention Convention and the Science Around ME program.

As a Bangor resident with two kids of my own, I know just how important MDM is to our community. My youngest is an avid supporter of MDM's camps, where he has been provided with many opportunities to safely explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

The Maine Science Festival just wrapped up its tenth year, bringing 70+ events and activities over a five-day period to kids and their families – all free to the public. There is no other organization, to my knowledge, that does this in Maine. I have been lucky to participate in this festival over the years co-teaching workshops regarding the intersection of applied theatre, brain science and trauma recovery.

When we ask ourselves about ways to spark interest in STEM for our young people, this is how we do it: by introducing fantastic programming to them at an early age.

I urge you to vote in support of this crucial funding measure.