



CITY OF BANGOR

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 10, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and Honorable Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Anne Krieg and I am the Community and Economic Development Director for the City of Bangor. On behalf of the Bangor City Council, I am writing 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.

Bangor is extremely fortunate to have the Maine Discovery Museum in our City. Its three floors of interactive exhibits and robust science programming benefit not just Bangor residents, but people from across the region and State. In fact, 60,000 people visit the Maine Discovery Museum each year, and another 15,000 people take advantage of the museum’s outreach programming. The museum’s programs and mission align with the City’s Economic Development Strategy, which highlights our belief that we can become an educational hub. Our proximity to two major universities, the quality of the Bangor School Department, and our location position us to become a region known for leading scientists accomplishing groundbreaking work. This will help Bangor and the State as it seeks to target young professionals to help enhance a vibrant and diverse culture.

The Maine Discovery Museum is a hub of informal STEM education and reaches rural and underserved communities throughout the year. It provides rich science content that many children and adults cannot get anywhere else, and for some it is the only exposure they receive.

LD 281 would provide state funding to support three museum programs that are available to Mainers free of charge: the Maine Invention Convention, a statewide competition for middle-school students that is part of the national network of invention conventions; the Maine Science Festival, the museum’s largest program and the only science festival north of Cambridge, Mass.; and Science Around ME, which focuses on science education and enrichment outreach.

This funding would be transformative not only to the Maine Discovery Museum but to Maine public science education. For this reason, I urge you to approve LD 281 as a way to bolster informal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs across the State.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

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