

The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
Testimony from Shane Mallory

**In Support Of**

L.D. 281

An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology,  
Engineering, and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State  
10 April 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Shane Mallory. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of L.D. 281, An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State

I am a lifelong Mainer, growing up in Bangor, I remember participating in the Maine Invention Convention when I was a kid at James F. Doughty. I can remember exactly how it felt to try to invent something that might improve my own life, or the lives of others. The excitement that I could potentially create something that could change my life forever. Combine that with the reality of coming up with a project, the feasibility of it, demonstration and presentation abilities, and you have an incredibly powerful lesson. Those are all things I still hold within myself, even today. Not to mention the Maine Science Festival that reaches thousands, and potentially tens of thousands of people in the state. Getting exposure to all types of science that Maine has to offer helps people realize you can do great things, even in the quiet state of Maine.

It is no secret that times are tough financially, especially for non profits like the Maine Discovery Museum who rely on donations and grants to fund their operation. This funding is incredibly important to ensure that the Maine Discovery Museum continues to be able to provide such invaluable services to the state of Maine. In doing so, creating an environment where kids can learn about science, and eventually create fulfilling careers, right here in Maine.

The reason this is so important to me, is I would love for my kids one day to be able to participate in the Maine Invention Convention, Maine Science Festival, and experience all the great science that happens in Maine, just like I did. I believe this truly had an impact on who I am today and I would hate for that opportunity to be taken from those that have not yet had the pleasure of experiencing them.

Sincerely,

Shane Mallory