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April 10, 2025

Testimony of Representative Sean Faircloth 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 esteemed colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I am Sean Faircloth and I represent House District 24, which includes Veazie and parts of Bangor, Orono and Brewer. I am here today to testify 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.**

In February 2026, the Maine Discovery Museum will celebrate a quarter century serving Maine children and families, and acting as an essential anchor for downtown Bangor. Upon opening, the Maine Discovery Museum was the largest children's museum outside Boston among the twenty plus museums in New England, and attracted children and families to visit from throughout New England.

Consistent with its founding mission to serve our entire state, the Maine Discovery Museum offers three statewide programs: the Maine Science Festival, Maine Invention Convention and Science Around ME, which is a science education and enrichment outreach program. This bill provides funding to supplement these three programs which will allow each program to reach a greater number of students throughout the state of Maine. These programs allow for scientific exploration and prepare the next generation of Mainers to become leaders in the STEM fields.

I urge you to please vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 281.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.