



Christine B. Foundation

304 Hancock St, Suite 1A, Bangor, ME 04401



The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Testimony from Matt Dexter

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 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Matt Dexter, executive director of the Christine B. Foundation (CBF). 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.

General background:

The Christine B. Foundation is a service-providing nonprofit based in Bangor that supports patients with cancer across eastern Maine.

Cancer is Maine’s leading cause of death with evidence-based public health policies guiding the response to this chronic disease. The health science field is a crucial backbone in cancer prevention and treatment. The Maine Discovery Museum (MDM) recognizes this and is a pillar of promoting these solutions across Maine for senior and emerging professionals in STEM fields.

There are no other services in the State of Maine that engage and invest in STEM the way MDM does, specifically for children and education. I personally have volunteered at the Maine Science Festival, witnessed the magic and curiosity on children’s faces viewing the museum exhibits, and held space for families/parents to express their appreciation. MDM has served multiple generations of Mainers and proven these programs have a lasting impact in the economy, education system, and health of Maine.

I strongly support this bill as a citizen of Bangor, as a researcher, and as a partnering organization.

Sincerely,

Matt Dexter

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