

TESTIMONY OF AMY PICHETTE
In Support of L.D. 1624

“An Act To Provide Funding for Summer School Programming”
April 25th, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs: My name is Amy Pichette and I’ve spent the last 25 years working in public and private education, specifically leading afterschool and summer programming. As the current Director of an engaging and dynamic afterschool and summer program in Portland, and a former Director of 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants in Greater Portland, I have vast experience and deep knowledge on the positive impact that summer enrichment programs have on children.

Summer programming is vital to student success. Lack of engagement over the summer affects lower income students more than their well resourced peers in a phenomenon known as the “summer slide.” Although low-income students and middle-income students progress at the same rate during the school year, low income students fall behind by 2-3 months each summer. By the 5th grade, low- income students are 2.5-3 years behind their more resourced peers.¹

Consistent access and participation in quality summer programming is critically important for students who lack resources and who are performing below grade level. These students need extra time to be engaged in high interest and academically rigorous activities that allow them to practice skills, explore and discover, grow their background knowledge, and participate in experiences they would otherwise not have access to. For these reasons, I support any opportunity to provide more access to summer programming to students in the State of Maine and encourage you to do the same.

I would like to thank you, our lawmakers, for considering this legislation.

Sincerely,
Amy Pichette, Portland

References & Resources

- [Maine AfterSchool & Summer Program Fact Sheet](#) published by the Afterschool Alliance in 2024
- [Bridging the Summer Gap: What District Leaders Say About Learning Beyond the School Year](#) published by the National Summer Learning Association and AASA, The School Superintendents Association

¹ Source: Cooper, H., Borman, G, & Fairchild, R. (2010). “School Calendars and Academic Achievement.” In J. Meece & J. Eccles (eds.), *Handbook of Research on Schools, Schooling, and Human Development* (pp.342-355). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.