

April 22, 2025

**In support of
LD 1219 An Act to Increase State Funding for the Campuses of the University of Maine System
and to Raise the Minimum Hourly Wage for Employees of the System**

To Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

My name is Virginia Mott, and I am a recently retired teacher. I live in Lakeville, Maine.

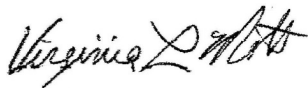
I attended the University of Maine Orono twice. The first time, fresh out of high school, I earned an Associates Degree in Animal Medical Technology. Later in life I returned to UMO and earned a Bsc degree in Education. I'm grateful for the education I received and for the support the University System received from the citizens of Maine. But for decades that support has been significantly and harmfully reduced.

Education is essential to our society. It can be an equalizer across society, but only if everyone has a reasonable opportunity for access. That means we the citizens must support education to the extent that anyone who qualifies for acceptance to higher education won't find the cost to be an insurmountable obstacle. Higher education needs and deserves our support. We all benefit from a healthy University System.

A key category of employees who keep the system running are the employees receiving hourly wages. In order to attract and keep these essential people, their pay must better reflect their value. This bill will be an important step in that direction.

I urge you to support LD 1219. Please support our Universities they way society needs them to be supported and increase the minimum wage for the hourly workers without whom the University System couldn't function.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia L. Mott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Virginia L. Mott