

Caneel Cheskin
Farmington
LD 1219

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and other members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Caneel Cheskin and I'm writing to testify 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.

I work at the University of Maine System as an IT Specialist and I live in Farmington, Maine. I see firsthand everyday the students who come downtown to drink the cheapest coffee in town at Java Joe's and talk about school. I interact with students who work there who couldn't afford to be federal work-study because they didn't offer enough hours, and so wake up at 6AM on school days to work opening shifts in town. Those students deserve care and funding in their education; they give back to Farmington's economy and social sphere with all they have, and we should reward them in kind. Thank you.