

Testimony 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

Submitted by: Melinda Butler, 554 Bridgton Rd., Sebago, Maine 04029

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and other members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Melinda Butler and I work at the University of Southern Maine as an assistant professor and I live in Sebago, Maine. I am 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

Our department and our school have felt the impact of the chronic underfunding. We have had faculty leave, and, due to budgetary constraints, the positions have not been replaced. For example, I am the only full-time faculty member for Literacy Education in our department, and as a department chair, may only teach six credits per semester, and the other courses are taught by part-time faculty or full-time faculty members in other departments. Additionally, scholarship opportunities for our graduate students are very limited.

Thank you for your time and your consideration,

Melinda Butler