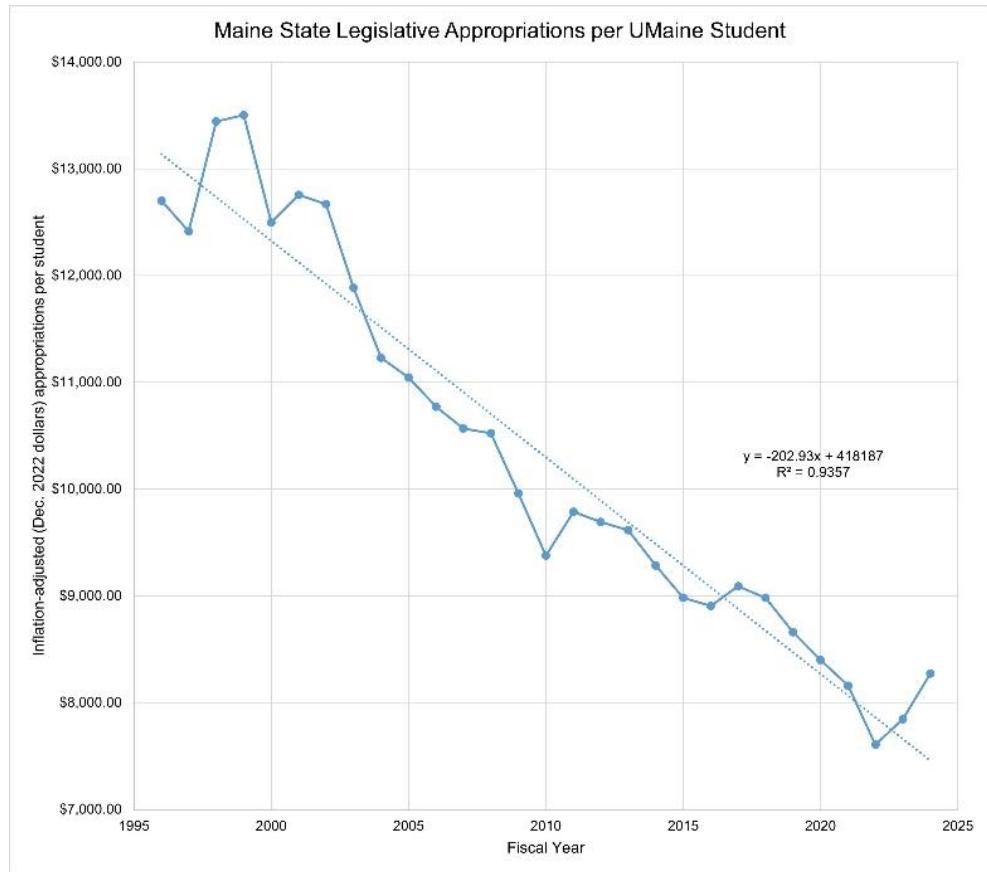


Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, esteemed committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Julie Gosse, I am an Associate Professor at UMaine and a resident of Orono.

I am here to testify in favor of LD 1533.

- In my submitted testimony, I graphed the Maine state legislative appropriations to UMaine over time, inflation-adjusted and divided by number of students. Strikingly, real appropriations per student at UMaine have decreased ~40% since the 1990s, a downward straight line.



- Thus, state appropriations have not kept up with inflation and enrollment. This is the underlying reason why graduate student stipends have not kept up with inflation, and the students are struggling to afford basic necessities while completing their degrees.
- Today, at this time, the graduate student workers in the union are rallying on the UMaine campus for improved working conditions. That's why they are not here. However, my understanding of the financial situation at UMaine is that their rallying cries are futile—the funds are simply not there to help them, due to the decades of appropriations decreases. .
- Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

¹Enrollment data was obtained from UMaine's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment and reflects total enrollment without duplicates, both undergraduate and graduate students. Calculator of inflation, adjusted to Dec 2022 dollars, was <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>. State appropriation (E&G) data are from UMS Finance and Administration. Note in the first 3 years of this data series, UMaine was combined with about 2000 students/yr at Bangor Community College. Starting with the FY22 data, the UMaine-Machias budget and number of students are included in the figures due to the merger of those two institutions. These values are state appropriation for E&G and does not count other sources of state revenue like MEIF, but E&G is by far the largest source of funding from the state.

²We are \$60 million in the hole each year (=11,760 students *\$5230 deficit compared to '90s)