

**Testimony of Sahra Hassan**  
**Former Educator, Make it Happen Program, Casco Bay High School**  
**Portland, Maine**  
**Testimony in Support of LD 1624 – An Act to Provide Funding for Summer School**  
**Programming**  
**April 25, 2025**

Dear Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Sahra Hassan, and I strongly support LD 1624 – An Act to Provide Funding for Summer School Programming, which aims to secure permanent funding for summer school and credit recovery programs for middle and high school students across Maine.

In my experience as an educator, I have seen firsthand the critical role that summer school plays in helping students stay on track to graduate, particularly for those who face significant barriers to academic success. For many of my students, many of whom were from immigrant and refugee backgrounds, summer school wasn't just about catching up academically—it was essential for bridging gaps in language and learning, helping them stay on track to graduate despite challenges during the regular school year.

Without access to these programs, underserved students, including low-income students, students of color, and those with language barriers, miss opportunities to recover from learning loss, build skills, and stay engaged. Multilingual students, in particular, have a higher chance of regression without a supportive environment to practice language and academics. Furthermore, the absence of summer school also deepens existing inequities, as underserved students often lack resources outside the classroom. Without stable funding for summer programs, the gap between those with access to support and those without will grow, perpetuating systemic challenges.

The proposed amendment seeks to mitigate these risks by increasing access to education for all young people in Maine. I commend Representative Warren and the many legislators who have come together in support of this bill. This is not just about providing additional academic opportunities—it's about making sure that every student, regardless of their background or where they live, has the chance to succeed and graduate on time. Thus, I urge you, members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, to vote "ought to pass" to LD 1624 – An Act to Provide Funding for Summer School Programming.

Thank you for considering my testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Sahra Hassan

Sahra Hassan  
Portland Maine  
LD 1624