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My name is Sarah Brajtbord Fahey, and I am a resident of South Portland. As someone who has worked with young people professionally for more than 15 years, both within and outside of schools, I can personally attest to the need for consistent access to summer school for all young people.

Without summer school funding, students lose critical chances to catch up, stay engaged, and remain on track. We know the inequalities of education are echoed in class, race, and geography inequities. Without the inclusion of stable and sufficient summer school funding, we only deepen these injustices. With funding, we provide the structural equity needed in Maine schools for every student.

Having access to year round educational opportunities for students who need extra support is critical to ensuring their healthy development. I want every young person to the chance to succeed and become the best versions of themselves, and access to summer school can be a critical step in a young person's intellectual, social, and emotional development.

Please support this bill and fund summer school opportunities for every child in Maine! It is our job to ensure that we bring every young person with us in shaping a bright future for Maine.