



Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs  
Testimony of Kate Dickerson, Maine Discovery Museum

**In Support of**

**LD 1740, an Act to Establish the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics  
Matching Grant Program**

May 2, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. My name is Kate Dickerson, and I'm the Executive Director of the Maine Discovery Museum as well a member of the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1740, an Act to Establish the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Matching Grant Program.

Maine Discovery Museum's (MDM) mission is to help people of all ages discover the world around them through creative exploration and science. A key feature MDM's work is to focus on the sciences critical to Maine. Every day, in our museum and via our external programs like Science Around ME and the Maine Science Festival, we see Mainers of all ages inspired by STEAM.

STEAM is an approach that MDM has been focused on for most of our existence, and we have seen first-hand the impact that STEAM programs, activities, and events have on our patrons. Not just in the moment, although that is always a joy to witness, but long-term. Admittedly, MDM could be a beneficiary of this program in the future if we were fortunate enough to submit a successful grant proposal. However, that is not why I support this program. I am in support of this Act because STEAM programs help students of all interests join together to explore their world, and the more Maine fosters STEAM the better off we all are.

I enthusiastically support LD 1740 and respectfully ask you to vote to support the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Matching Grant Program.

Sincerely,

Kate Dickerson  
Executive Director  
Maine Discovery Museum  
Founder, Maine Science Festival



Maine  
Invention  
Convention

