

Christian Ratliff
South Portland
LD 1740

Testimony in Support of LD1740, “An Act to Establish the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Matching Grant Program”

Senator, Representative, and esteemed members of the committee:

My name is Christian Ratliff, and I am a technology executive based in Maine and a resident of South Portland. I have been actively involved in the state’s science and technology industries since 1992, and for over twelve years, I have been part of the vibrant Maine robotics community. I am writing today to express my strong support for LD1740, which proposes the creation of the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Matching Grant Program.

This bill represents a critical opportunity to invest in Maine’s future by giving students access to essential hands-on experiences in STEAM fields. Through robotics programs supported by this legislation, students will gain practical knowledge that prepares them to become highly skilled professionals and future innovators. These are the individuals who will drive Maine’s economic growth and build new industries from the ground up.

In my own experience, I have seen students grow from enthusiastic learners into capable professionals. Robotics programs do more than teach technical skills; they foster teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. These are the qualities that will help these students excel in their careers and make lasting contributions to Maine’s workforce.

In closing, I believe this bill is an important investment in the future of Maine. By supporting the expansion of STEAM education, we are giving Maine students the chance to succeed in an increasingly technical world and ensuring the long-term success of our state’s economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Christian Ratliff