

Jason Hurder  
Gorham  
LD 1740

As a parent of two boys within the Gorham School system, I am writing to underscore the profound impact of the STEM Coliseum on our students. My 16-year-old son, a dedicated member of the Gorham robotics group housed in the former Forever 21 location at the mall, has flourished over the past two years. This invaluable program has provided him with an extraordinary level of achievement and technical expertise, offering hands-on experience and knowledge far exceeding the scope of a standard high school curriculum.

This year alone, he and his team not only constructed a robot from fundamental components but also excelled in collaborative teamwork, secured second place in the Maine App Challenge, partnered with the Roux Institute to develop an assistive service for an individual with disabilities, and gained significant knowledge in electrical engineering. These are skills and lessons typically encountered in higher education, yet my son has embraced them as a high school sophomore.

This remarkable opportunity, fostered by the STEM Coliseum, is sustained through the generosity of state funding and local donors. It would be a significant loss if this vital resource were to disappear due to a lack of financial support. I urge you to consider approving LD 1740, thereby ensuring that students like my son can continue to achieve extraordinary things and contribute meaningfully to our community's future.