

Zachary Nielsen
Thorndike
LD 1740

Spoken Testimony in Support of An Act to Establish the Maine STEAM Matching Grant Program

Zachary Nielsen
Alumni, Team 2648 – Infinite Loop Robotics

Dear members of the committee,

My name is Zachary Nielsen, and I'm an alumni of Team 2648 – Infinite Loop Robotics, a high school robotics team based in Oakland. I'm here to speak in strong support of An Act to Establish the STEAM Matching Grant Program.

I have personally seen the impact of the Robotics program at Oakland in both my life as well as my other teammates. I personally was inspired by the program to pursue an education in software engineering, a profession I have derived deep satisfaction from since graduating. I have also seen many of my peers from the team pursue careers in STEAM, many of whom I am still close friends with to this day.

While on the team I was given exposure to a wide variety of engineering disciplines, engaged in constructive problem solving with plenty of disagreements, and developed strong leadership skills as I became a senior member on the team.

On behalf of Team 2648, I urge you to support this bill and give more Maine students the chance to lead, build, and innovate.

Thank you.