



Craig V. Hickman
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman in support of
LD 1740, “An Act to Establish the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Matching Grant Program,”
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Monday, May 5, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and honorable members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Craig Hickman, and I am proud to represent Senate District 14, twelve municipalities in southern Kennebec County including my beloved hometown of Winthrop. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of [LD 1740](#), “An Act to Establish the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Matching Grant Program.”

A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet with a group of robotics students from my district and some neighboring towns. I was impressed by the hard work that the Delta Prime Robotics 4-H Team had done on their robots and in their competitions. I was also impressed with how knowledgeable they were about bills before the Legislature, including this one, which would directly support their program.

The students explained the skills that they have learned, from coding and design to working together as a team. One of the most important skills they master, in my opinion, is the ability to problem solve quickly in the arena. Their parents and coaches echoed the crucial career preparatory aspect of robotics and other STEAM educational opportunities. One parent, who works with computers at Bath Iron Works, said that all of the skills the students practice on the robotics team are exactly what BIW is looking for as they hire young people for increasingly advanced technology roles.

Kids are our future, and we must invest in them to ensure they have the skills to succeed in the jobs of the future. The grants included in this bill will do just that, and I hope you will join me in supporting LD 1740.

Thank you.

Craig V. Hickman
State Senator, District 14