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My name is Rosie Moreau, and I am a College Access Advisor working closely with Maine high school students throughout the academic year. I am writing in strong support of continuing the Maine Free College Scholarship Program for the graduating class of 2026 and beyond.

I urge the Committee to support this bill because the Free College Scholarship continues to be a transformative opportunity for Maine students, especially those who fall into the financial gap between not qualifying for federal Pell Grants but still lacking the resources to afford college.

The families who fall within this gap are often working class, not wealthy. With the cost of living rising, college may unfortunately be seen as a "want" not a "need" for these families.

I have had the opportunity to work with and support college students who may never have been able to attend college if it was not for the MFC Scholarship. When we give students this opportunity, we are building a bridge to adulthood, competencies and connectedness and we are slashing at least one barrier that these students have faced.

Please consider extending the Maine Free College Scholarship to the class of 2026 and beyond.