

**TO: Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

FROM: Jared Rubin, Director of Residence Life, Central Maine Community College

RE: Statement in support of the Maine Community College System's portion of LD 2212

DATE: February 18, 2026

Senator Rotundo, Senator Rafferty, Representative Gattine and Representative Murphy, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I am Jared Rubin, the Director of Residence Life at Central Maine Community College, and I am writing today in support of the portions of LD 2212 that continue the Maine Free College program.

Central Maine Community College has seen significant growth in its Residence Life program, expanding from 253 students in 2017, when I was a resident hall student, to 389 students today. This increase in student population is, in part, due to our initiative to rent out an entire hotel in Auburn to accommodate additional students. CMCC offers four distinct residence hall options, with three on-campus, housing 253 students, and one off-campus facility housing 136 students.

With enrollment growth driven by the Maine Free College Program, CMCC's Residence Life program has expanded its housing capacity to meet increasing demand. This expansion has allowed more students to live on campus and access the structured support and community that directly contribute to their academic success.

For that reason, I strongly support the provisions of LD 2212 that continue funding for the Maine Free College Program. Sustained investment will allow us to maintain a strong Residence Life program and continue providing meaningful opportunities for students to engage, connect, and succeed. These resources are not enhancements—they are essential to ensuring every residential student has access to a safe, supportive, and engaging environment.

As an alumnus of Central Maine Community College, I've seen firsthand the importance of a supportive environment in our residence halls. From being a resident student to working as an RA, RD, Assistant Director of Residence Life, and now Director of Residence Life, I understand how vital supports are to student success.

I request your support of L.D. 2212 and thank you for your time and consideration for supporting CMCC's students moving forward.

Jared Rubin

Director of Residence Life

Central Maine Community College