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Limerick  
LD 2212

Testimony Regarding LD 2212  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
Maine Legislature

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express serious concern regarding the proposed supplemental budget increase of approximately \$275 million for the 2026–2027 biennium.

Over the past eight years, Maine’s State budget has grown from approximately \$6.7 billion in FY16–17 to nearly \$12 billion today. That rate of growth demands scrutiny. While some increases reflect inflation and federal funding changes, the overall expansion of government spending raises legitimate questions about long-term sustainability and fiscal discipline.

Mainers do not want unchecked growth in government. They want accountability, responsible budgeting, and clear justification for every additional dollar authorized.

Before approving this supplemental request, I respectfully ask the Committee to clearly address the following questions:

- How much of this proposal represents permanent structural spending increases rather than temporary adjustments?
- What measurable reforms have been implemented to slow the growth of major cost drivers such as MaineCare?
- What is the projected structural budget outlook for the next biennium if revenues soften?
- Why are one-time stabilization funds being used while recurring spending commitments continue to grow?

A balanced budget on paper is not the same as a sustainable budget in practice. Authorizing additional spending authority without transparent long-term projections risks placing future taxpayers in a vulnerable position.

Fiscal stewardship requires restraint, prioritization, and structural accountability — not simply expanding appropriations when pressures arise.

I urge the Committee to ensure that any increase in spending is accompanied by clear reforms and a sustainable long-term plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy L. Fenderson  
Limerick, Maine