

Michelle McNeil-Brown
York County Community College
LD 2212

Testimony from Michelle McNeil-Brown Kennebunk, Maine
Department Chair, Business and Accounting, York County Community College
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs Joint Standing
Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Testimony in support of the Maine Community College System's portion of LD 2212,
An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund
and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain
Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for
the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027. Part A, page 17 and
Language QQQ

February 20, 2026

Senator Rotundo, Senator Rafferty, Representative Gattine, Representative Murphy,
and Members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial
Affairs and Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Michelle McNeil-Brown. My
hometown is Kennebunk, Maine, and I am the Department Chair of Business and
Accounting at York County Community College. I am here to testify in support of the
portion of LD 2212 that funds and makes permanent the Maine Free College
Scholarship.

This scholarship has been instrumental in providing access to higher education for
many students who otherwise would not have had the opportunity. By making this
scholarship permanent, we are ensuring that future generations of Mainers will have
the chance to pursue their educational and career goals without the burden of
overwhelming debt.

The Maine Free College Scholarship has not only increased enrollment at our
community colleges but has also had a positive impact on our local economy.
Graduates are more likely to stay in Maine, contributing to our workforce and
community development. This investment in education is an investment in the future
of our state.

I urge you to support LD 2212 and the Maine Community College System's portion
of this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.