

Jenny Martinez Nocito  
Augusta, ME  
February 20, 2026

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Jenny Martinez Nocito. I'm a resident of Augusta, a lifelong library fangirl, and currently gratefully employed at the Maine State Library in the Outreach Services department.

Although I am submitting this testimony as a member of the public, it is impossible for me to separate my private life from my professional life regarding the issue before us today. From both of these positions, I urge you most strongly to fully support LD 2212, the Governor's supplemental budget regarding funding for the Maine State Library.

Much like you, as a Legislative body, have the Law and Legislative Reference Library to depend on for your specific and unique needs, patrons all across Maine depend on those of us at Maine State Library's Outreach Services to meet *their* specific and unique needs. This includes some of the most vulnerable people in our state: homebound Mainers; Mainers with low or no vision; folks with physical disabilities that prevent them from being able to hold a book. We send library materials directly to their homes every day - thousands of items a month - to make sure they have the same access anyone else does to entertainment, research, news, and connection to the world at large. We make a difference in people's lives every. single. day. I know this because I talk to our patrons on the phone; I receive their notes, their letters, their incredible gratitude for the work we do.

We have a patron who has been homebound for years, and lives in relative isolation without so much as a phone or an internet connection. But she reads, and listens, to an endless variety of books; fiction for fun, sure, but she requests deep dives into so many varied topics, and discusses them chattily in the letters she sends, full of new requests, that it's frankly inspiring. Without us sending those books, audiobooks, DVDs, recorded courses, and cross-stitch books, her life would be completely different, and a lot less beautiful. She once wrote to me: "Being homebound gives me the time for research. Your help allows me to keep an active interest in everything around me."

Our services are described as a lifeline by so many of our patrons that it's almost easy to lose track of how impactful that is. As librarians, part of our mission is to make people's lives better. You voting to support the Governor's supplemental budget for the Maine State Library is what makes our work possible, sustainable, and dependable. This in turn makes Mainers' lives better.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. I urge you to vote to pass LD 2212.

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