

Jeffrey Harmon – Auburn
Susan Hawes – Bangor
Liam LaFountain – Biddeford
Carl Sheline – Lewiston
Mark Dion – Portland
Adam Lachman – Rockland



Jodi MacPhail – Saco
Becky Brink – Sanford
Elyse Tipton – South Portland
Michael Morris – Waterville
David Morse – Westbrook

Supported By: Mitchell Tardy Jackson Government Affairs - 104 Sewall Street, Augusta, Maine 04330 - 207-622-1365

**Maine Mayors Coalition Testimony on 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**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Education and Cultural Affairs, the Maine Mayors Coalition is providing testimony in support of funding for General Purpose Aid to Education included in Governor Mills' proposed supplemental budget.

The Maine Mayors Coalition is a nonpartisan group representing the mayors of eleven Maine communities – Auburn, Bangor, Biddeford, Lewiston, Portland, Rockland, Saco, Sanford, South Portland, Waterville and Westbrook – and nearly 300,000 residents. The Coalition advocates on behalf of our citizens and municipalities for policies that recognize the vital services Maine cities provide and the positive impact Maine cities have on our state. The Coalition seeks to work in partnership with state and federal elected officials to meet the needs of Maine people.

Funding 55 percent of General Purpose Aid to Education is an essential investment for our state and one of the top priorities for our Coalition. We extend our sincere thanks to your Committees and the Legislature for continuing to fully fund the state's share of K-12 education.

As you are well aware, one of our most important obligations as public officials is to our young people – they are our state's greatest legacy. Ensuring they receive the best education possible prepares them to become contributing members of society. The state's 55 percent share helps our schools meet this challenge. At the same time, full state funding relieves homeowners and business owners who pay for the remaining balance through their property taxes.

The Maine Mayors Coalition appreciates your past support for General Purpose Aid to Education and respectfully asks you to continue full funding as proposed in this supplemental budget.

Thank you for your consideration.