

Libby DeLucia-Harting, Portland  
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*Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 2212, An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027*

Senators Rotundo and Grohoski, Representatives Gattine and Sayre, members of the Appropriations and Taxation Committees, my name is Libby DeLucia-Harting, and I live in Portland.

**Increase taxes on the rich. We will still be rich, and more Mainers will be able to live the American Dream.**

As a person with wealth, I encourage the committees to raise revenue through higher taxes on the wealthy. Doing so will have little impact on the rich, but it will enable more Mainers to live the American Dream by funding critical things like education, affordable housing, and healthcare that can change the trajectory of everyday Mainers. These are issues that can only be solved by a functioning and resourced government. No amount of charitable gifts can fill these structural gaps.

Many don't like to admit this, but **paying a little more in taxes is a rounding error for rich people**. When you log in to your bank account, have you ever wondered if it went up or down by \$100,000 the day before — and not really cared about the answer? I have. That's what it looks like to have a lot of money. I regularly have stock market gains or losses in one day that are higher than my annual taxes paid to the State of Maine.

**The fear of “punishing success” is about principle, not reality.** Friends of mine who dislike taxes admit something revealing. One said, “I know increasing my taxes wouldn't really impact my life, and it could help people. It's just... I already pay a lot.” He then explained he had reorganized his business structure to lower his taxes — though he couldn't remember how.

On the other hand, my tax rate is far too low for someone who has millions - as low as a 13% federal effective tax rate in some years - compared to those who work difficult jobs for a living. I would rather that *in reality* my daycare provider didn't have to skip lunch most days while my kid eats organic raspberries in front of her. As you know, the Governor proposed canceling this childcare worker's stipend last year, but she never proposed that I buy fewer designer shoes...

Here's the thing: **taxing the wealthy doesn't erase our advantages**. Kids raised in wealthy households have private tutors and connections to the Ivy League and high-powered executives. They are encouraged to dream big and take risks. They never have to worry about losing their health insurance or the stress of unpaid bills. These benefits do not disappear because their parents pay a few percentage points more in taxes. These are the foundations of achieving the American Dream, and rich kids have them all. Isn't that enough of a head start?

**Raising revenue from the rich will help us all.** In my opinion, it will make the wealthy more likely to stay. I want high-quality public education so I don't have to send my kids to private school; I want bridges and roads to be repaired quickly after storms. I'd be happier if I had less money but was surrounded by families that are less anxious and entrepreneurs who are more

successful. Wealthy people like to live in stable, thriving societies. Being confronted with enormous disparities in opportunity and income does not help one's beauty rest.

A lot of the wealthy parents I know worry about their children's work ethic. Many other parents worry about how they will pay for their children's food. Life's not fair. But maybe Maine's leaders could be brave enough to make it a little more fair by asking the wealthy to pay our fair share.

Respectfully,  
Libby DeLucia-Harting