

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY¹ OF
ATTY. ELI BLACKHOUSE
(of Gardiner, ME)
RE: LD2212**

Submitted to: The Maine State Legislature

Date of Submission: February 19, 2026 @ 1:20 p.m.

Type of Hearing: Public

Committee: Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Committee

Date: February 20, 2026

Bill: LD2212: 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

¹ Please note that this written legislative testimony is being submitted via e-mail to the AFA because the online form for submission *was not operational around 1pm on February 19, 2026.*

BODY OF TESTIMONY

I am a homebound and disabled attorney who may only work remotely, unfortunately, so: the Books by Mail program has provided vital material for my household for over a decade, now, I believe.

I was saddened to hear that staff have been reduced to one member -- at the Maine State Library -- and that resources have been curtailed by funding loss.

Although Maine citizens and public officials tend to turn a blind eye, sadly, there are many Maine citizens -- statewide -- who would benefit both from an increase in funding to Books by Mail as well as structured support for the Federal effort known as "Access to Justice," a public library -based program which, at one juncture, aimed to provide on-site, in-library access to lawyers for the indigent, downtrodden, and oppressed.

The State of Maine also urgently requires assistance with both victims' assistance programs and properly steered education resources such as those provided deftly and sensitively by the Maine State Library. I urge all lawmakers to ensure that vital Library programs within the State of Maine remain fully funded and staffed. Please approve maximum funding allocation for the State of Maine Books by Mail program and fuller public support for the Maine State Library, Museum, and Archives. Thank you. Atty. Eli Blackhouse, Gardiner, Maine.

eli.blackhouse@blackhouselaw.org. Lawmakers may e-mail to me directly if I can guide on this or other matters. EAB.

END OF STATEMENT

Electronically signed-

Eli Archer Blackhouse

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