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Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Appropriations & Financial Affairs Committee,

My name is Katelyn Leboeuf, and I am writing in strong support of continued funding for the Maine Free College Scholarship.

This program removed the greatest barrier to postsecondary education: cost. It primarily supported students entering one- and two-year workforce programs — nursing, EMS, early childhood education, advanced manufacturing, and the skilled trades — directly addressing Maine’s labor shortages.

Since 2022, it has driven record community college enrollment and helped thousands of students who otherwise would not have enrolled earn valuable credentials. Investment in community college strengthens our workforce, increases lifetime earnings, and grows Maine’s economy.

This is a practical investment in Maine students and Maine’s future. I respectfully urge you to fully fund and make permanent the Maine Free College Scholarship.

Thank you for your consideration.