

MAYOR
LIAM LAFOUNTAIN



CITY OF BIDDEFORD
MAINE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 7, 2026

Testimony in Support of LD 2226: *An Act to Amend the Essential Programs and Services School Funding Formula*

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Liam LaFountain, and I am honored to serve as Mayor of the City of Biddeford and Chair of the Biddeford School Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 2226.

In Biddeford, our schools serve a student population where more than sixty percent of children are economically disadvantaged. Our educators meet that challenge with commitment and professionalism every day. Anyone who works closely with students understands that poverty does not stay outside the school doors. It affects learning, stability, and opportunity long before a student ever sits down in a classroom.

Schools in districts like ours often must do more with fewer resources. Teachers, counselors, intervention programs, and extended learning opportunities become essential tools for helping students succeed. When those supports are not adequately funded, the gap between students widens through no fault of their own. LD 2226 helps address that reality.

Responding to those realities carries real financial implications for municipalities. As a local elected official responsible for balancing budgets, I support LD 2226 because it promotes fairness for the taxpayers who fund our schools. Education is often the largest component of local property taxes, and property taxpayers already make a significant investment in public education. When the state funding formula more accurately reflects student need, it helps ensure that responsibility is shared more fairly across Maine.

Most importantly, this bill is about Maine's future. School Districts like Biddeford, and many others across our state, are filled with students who are talented, hardworking, and full of potential. When those students receive the support they need to succeed in school, they become the workforce, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders who will strengthen Maine's economy and communities in the decades ahead.

Investing in their success is not only the right thing to do for our children; it is also one of the smartest investments we can make in the long-term strength of our state. LD 2226 moves Maine closer to a school funding system that recognizes the realities students and municipalities face while ensuring that opportunity is not determined by zip code.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liam LaFountain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "L" and "F".

Liam LaFountain
Mayor, City of Biddeford
Chair, Biddeford School Committee