

Mickayla Dussault  
Norway  
LD 2226

The way education is funded is purposefully inequitable to force poor communities to stay uneducated and poor and rich communities to have the best education for their children, these decisions for funding were created during a time in America's history where we redlined districts to keep black people from getting a proper education. But it affected every poor community across America. In Maine specifically, our rural communities struggle immensely from our property taxes funding education.

The community which I am from, Buckfield, is so low income that right now they are trying to look at pulling out of the RSU in hopes to find cuts to education.

When I was in Buckfield, we had no art teacher for an entire semester and I didn't have a French teacher a year. I was fortunate that my parents could drive me to Oxford Hills, where I went for my junior year, but many families are not so lucky. And if you look at the Buckfield Facebook page and see what kind of cuts they're hoping for, it appears to be things like special education. It's a scary time to be a mother, especially to an autistic son. Not just because they'd remove services, as I do know there are protections, but also because that means my son is their scapegoat in their discussions. They are scrutinizing children with special needs saying it's over done and ridiculous and making them all poor, when in reality, it is the unfairness of the system. Having an education is a right in America, not just a privilege. Please consider LD2226 so that the quality of education can be more equitable for all children and communities.