



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Rep. Holly T. Sargent in support of*  
**LD 1016, An Act to Support College Students Participation as Interns**  
*Before the State and Local Government Committee*

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Holly Sargent, and I represent District 147, the historic town of York. I am here today to speak in strong support of **LD 1016, An Act to Support College Students Participation as Interns.**

My support of this bill is personal, professional and practical.

Despite the danger that I am divulging my age, I share that as a newly minted graduate of Windham High School and a new college student I received an internship to work in the office of Senator Edmund S. Muskie in Washington DC. This experience opened my eyes, shaped my career choices and strengthened my political values. This bill before you today allows more Maine students to have an early exposure to public service and legislative policy making.

My professional support stems from my many experiences crafting fellowships and internships while working at Harvard's Kennedy School and the Rhodes Trust. I negotiated fellowships for Israel, Southeastern Europe, Denmark and, yes, even Maine, and I then watched as individuals returned to their homes and contributed to their communities.

Investment in people, especially young people, yields the greatest return on investment. If one broadens their experience, helps them hone their skills and builds their network of acquaintance, one can be assured of the lifelong ripple effects.

My practical support comes from the heartfelt, albeit early, assessment that, as a citizen legislature, we can all use extra brain power as we digest over 2000 pieces of legislation. We also can always benefit from additional perspectives. This may not be desired by all legislators, but it can be of tremendous value to our performance and for the inspiration of future leaders.

Thank you for your time, I'm willing to answer any questions you have of me.