

April 16, 2023

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

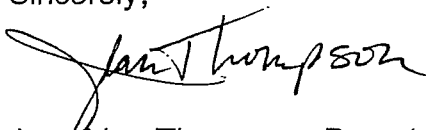
[REDACTED]

As a parent of a current MSSM student, I am writing to urge you to pass LD1458 through the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. It is hard to express just how important MSSM has been to my child's education who is currently a junior there in Limestone. My son, Cole comes from a very average middleclass family and no one from his family has ever before attended a boarding school. My own career has been entirely devoted to non-profits and the last ten years I have worked at an arts center in Rockland which actively supports the public schools there.

From a very early age, Cole showed a high aptitude for math and understanding of complex ideas. In middle school his teachers recommended he apply to MSSM. This school has been an amazing opportunity one which I believe will pave the way for additional opportunities for him and so many other MSSM students like him. Cole would not have had the opportunity to attend MSSM if it was a private boarding school charging tuition. I truly believe MSSM is changing the lives of so many deserving Maine students who otherwise would not have the means of attending a rigorous, well respected boarding school. The cost of room and board prohibits many Maine families from even considering applying to MSSM. In our case, Cole is able to attend because of a partial scholarship that we receive which helps mitigate this expense. US News and World Report ranked MSSM as the second best public high school in the Country in 2019 which tells you what a wonderful job the teachers and administrators are doing in this remote area of Maine. Not only is MSSM highly regarded nationally, it brings financial stability to this area in northern Maine where the town of Limestone depends on this school heavily for its economy.

This bill would secure MSSM's future and help keep the admissions rooted in true merit and not socioeconomics. If I could vote for an increase of funding for MSSM, I would. Just as I have voted to increase the budget at my local school. But MSSM is funded by the state, and so we turn to you for help. This bill is an investment in Maine's future and the next generation. Nationally, MSSM is a school that represents Maine so well. Please support LD1458 and support MSSM!

Sincerely,



Jean Linn Thompson, Parent  
Camden, ME