

TESTIMONY OF ANNE SEDLACK
ON BEHALF OF MAINE INDEPENDENT COLLEGES ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

**In Support of LD 1797, An Act to Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Expanding
Educational Opportunities and Providing Tax Credits**

**Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
May 2, 2023**

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and members of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee, my name is Anne Sedlack, and I am an attorney with Preti Flaherty, and I am here today on behalf of the Maine Independent Colleges Association (MICA) to testify in Support of LD 1797.

MICA represents 11 private, nonprofit colleges and universities¹ throughout Maine that serve over 25,000 students, over 7,000 of whom are from Maine. These institutions are located in municipalities of all sizes across the State, from Maine's largest city to small tourist towns and farming communities. Collectively, the 11 institutions are an economic force and an integral part of Maine's Higher Educational eco-system. While they share the attributes of being private and nonprofit, these institutions are highly diverse and serve very different aspects of the educational needs of Maine people. Together they:

- Employ over 6,000 Maine workers.
- Have a total payroll in excess of \$340 million.
- Have direct expenditures of over \$615 million.
- Have an estimated economic impact on Maine's economy of over a billion dollars each year.
- Directly contribute close to \$2M to municipalities.
- Value of community service is over \$24 million.
- Provide nearly \$55 million in financial aid to Maine students.
- Draw nearly 300,000 visitors to our state each year

MICA supports LD 1797 because we believe that Maine's colleges and universities are a key partner in resolving our health care workforce shortage problem across the State, and especially in our rural and underserved regions of the state. Our Association, including the University of New England, St. Joseph's College, and Husson University, have worked closely with the Maine health systems and hospitals to provide education and training for health care professionals in our State and more is needed. The incentives and opportunities in this bill are

¹ Bates College, Bowdoin College, Colby College, College of the Atlantic, Husson University, Maine College of Art, Roux Institute at Northeastern University, St. Joseph's College of Maine, Thomas College, Unity College, and University of New England.

critical to attracting and retaining health care students and growing the health care work force in Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments, and we look forward to working with the Committee on these issues. Please support LD 1719. Thank you.

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