

**LD 2118 — Ought to Pass**  
**An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics Using the**  
**School Funding Formula Criteria**

Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

February 13, 2024

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, greetings. My name is Michael Delorge and I am a 2020 graduate of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM). I urge you to support LD 2118 to fund the school that afforded me and other graduates an outstanding education while giving us the tools to contribute to our state in the future.

I would not be where I am without MSSM. This school provided me with opportunities in leadership, a world-class education, and friends & mentors unlike any other.

I am currently in my senior year at the University of Maine in Orono with plans to graduate this May with a dual degree in biology and political science towards a career in health policy. At UMaine, I am president of our Student Government, have interned in the U.S. Senate, have completed and led others in hundreds of hours in medical volunteerism, pursued two state-level health policy internships, and traveled to Senegal to engage in maternal health care efforts in sub-Saharan Africa. At UMaine, I've completed a research project analyzing the experiences of Mainers with substance use disorder and the demographic factors that influence success in long-term recovery. The goal of this project was to provide targeted policy recommendations to legislators to help address Maine's substance use crisis.

When I arrived at MSSM, I wanted to be a doctor. I graduated MSSM, however, with a passion for politics and policy. I discovered this passion – along with my voice and leadership skills – during high school in the seats you now occupy. Allow me to explain! MSSM was part of a YMCA-sponsored program called Maine Youth in Government. The school educated and supported our cohort of students to pick a policy issue they were interested in, write a bill on it, and engage in the legislative process – starting in committee – to lobby for its passage. Further, I completed a research tutorial class where I chose to research the U.S. healthcare system for a semester. I learned research skills and how to communicate my work with others. This experience prepared me for my college-level drug policy research and my education at MSSM enabled my attendance and engagement in the legislative process today.

MSSM offers a public magnet school education with a focus on academics that furthered my writing skills and professional communication. I learned how to manage my time, advocate for myself, and engage in self-discovery. Leaving home at age 15, school literally became my home. MSSM is truly magical. I'm eternally grateful for my time there. I urge you to support LD

2118 to ensure that MSSM can continue to thrive in providing world-class opportunities for students to learn and grow. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have and I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,  
Michael Delorge  
Saco, ME