



Testimony in Support of LD 209

Maine Maritime Academy

Senator Rotondo, Representative Gattine, Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Craig Johnson, and I am the Interim President of Maine Maritime Academy. I am here today to express our support for the funding provided in FY '25 for Maine's Paid Family and Medical Leave Act.

The allocation of \$65,000 outlined in this legislation will allow MMA to offer this important benefit to our employees. The full annual cost of \$260,000 is incorporated into our Fiscal Years '26 and '27 budgets, ensuring the long-term sustainability of this program.

We deeply appreciate the value of this initiative, which provides essential flexibility and support to MMA's employees and student workers as they navigate unexpected family events. Without the funding included in this legislation, the Academy would face significant challenges in implementing this critical program. Moreover, we believe this benefit will play an integral role in enhancing our ability to recruit and retain talented individuals.

Since 1941, Maine Maritime Academy has been dedicated to delivering quality educational opportunities to our students. We take pride not only in the success of our graduates but also in the significant economic contributions MMA makes to Maine, the region, and the nation.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting initiatives that strengthen the well-being of Maine's workforce. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Craig Johnson

Interim President

Maine Maritime Academy

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

Office of the President | 1 Pleasant Street | Castine, ME 04420