

# MITCHELL INSTITUTE

SENATOR GEORGE J. MITCHELL  
SCHOLARSHIP RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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February 7, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and esteemed Members of the Appropriations and Allocations Committee  
Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and esteemed Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

Maine State House of Representatives  
Room 228, State House

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

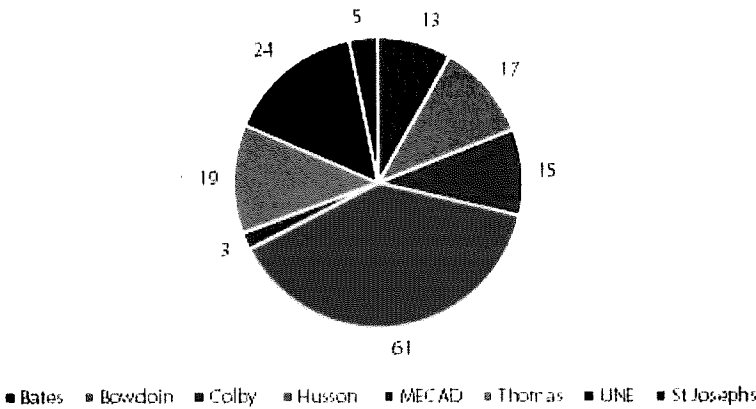
**Subject: Maine State Grant Allocations in the next Biennial State Budget  
(Section CCCC LD210)**

My name is Jared Cash; I am a resident of Norway, Maine. I am writing to provide my testimony regarding budget appropriations outlined in the next state budget that is currently under consideration by the Appropriations and Education Committees. As President and CEO of the Mitchell Institute, I speak on behalf of our mission to increase the likelihood that young people from every community across Maine aspire to, pursue, and achieve a college education. Since 1995, we have served over 3,800 Mitchell Scholars from each and every publicly funded high school across our state. At every step of our thirty years, we have witnessed and measured the difference that the Maine State Grant has provided the young people of our state, ensuring those with greatest financial need receive assistance to pursue a college degree from the private and public institutions of higher education in our state.

I strongly encourage the committees to assess the allocation decisions being put forth in this next biennial state budget as it relates to where the Maine State Grant dollars will be eligible. Indeed, our public university and community college systems are one of Maine's greatest assets for advancing social and economic mobility. Equally so, the private institutions of our state are readying students for vital workforce needs in our state.

If the Maine State Grant were to redefine their eligibilities and eliminate support to those students attending private colleges in our state, it would impact thousands of college students who are dedicated to learning and working here in Maine. At the Mitchell Institute, the eligibility changes would impact approximately 150 of our 680 Mitchell Scholars as illustrated below. These are Scholars who are dedicated to Maine, who desire to be teachers, medical care professionals, business entrepreneurs, civic servants, public officials, and many other roles that address the workforce and societal needs of our communities.

Mitchell Scholars at Private Maine Institutions  
2020-2025



Please ensure this next state budget funds a Maine State Grant program that continues to serve students who attend the in-state colleges and universities of Maine – both public and private. The young people of our state have needs that far exceed the resources they can acquire from their family and personal networks. These students are relying on the Maine State Grant, please be there for them.

Thank you for allowing me to share our perspective and for your commitment to the education of Maine's citizens.

Sincerely,

Jared Cash  
President and CEO