

Ali Mann
March 26, 2025
Testimony before the Taxation Committee

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and members of the Taxation Committee, my name is Ali Mann and I live in Portland. I am here to testify **in support** of LD 1047: An Act to Impose an Additional Tax on Certain Unearned Income and LD 1089: the millionaires tax.

I'm here as a person with inherited wealth, asking you to please pass these bills and raise my taxes. There are a few of us in a similar position here today, and several more who've submitted written testimony, which I hope you will take the time to read.

For years I've watched low-income Mainers stand before you here and bravely tell personal, often painful stories to try and convince you to fund our safety net, to increase the dignity and prospects of all Mainers. They offer up their struggles with the hope they will move you to support better education, health care, child care, or workers rights for more people. I'm not here to tell you about a personal tragedy. Instead, I'm here in solidarity with those Mainers who've stood here before me, to deliver some good news: **we have the money to take care of people**. We have it! I know you already knew that, but it feels important to say anyway. We have the money to take care of people.

We don't need to kick the problem down to municipalities, who will just raise property taxes, squeezing low and middle income people and pushing them from their neighborhoods. The money is already here, in bank and brokerage accounts with more digits than anyone would need in their lifetime.

But wait, there's more! A surcharge on income over \$1M, and on capital gains, will have benefits that ripple out. We've seen over the past few decades how accelerating wealth inequality has threatened everything we hold dear, from the environment, to our social fabric, and most obviously lately, our democracy. A Millionaire's Tax and a surcharge on capital gains would be a small but meaningful way to begin to combat this corrosive inequality, and bring some common decency and justice to Maine.