

Greetings Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and taxation committee members,

My name is Orion Ortolf, I live in Lewiston, ME and I am testifying in support of LD 1089 “An Act to Permanently Fund 55 Percent of the State's Share of Education by Establishing a Tax on Incomes of More than \$1,000,000” as well as LD 1047 “An Act to Impose an Additional Tax on Certain Unearned Income”.

For most of my adult life, I worked in the service industry—living paycheck to paycheck and paying my fair share of taxes. I am now a full time student, about a year away from getting my Master’s in Social Work. Once I graduate and am licensed, I will most likely make about \$50,000 a year to begin with<sup>1</sup>. I chose this career path because I wanted to help people, but also to give myself more stability. It seems ludicrous that I will pay the same tax rates as people who make 20 times more than I will.

In my work so far, I’ve seen the real impacts that the underfunding of public services has on individuals. Working class Mainers have been surviving in a landscape of scarcity for far too long, and supporting this bill would ensure a much fairer tax code. Making a higher tax rate for millionaires would raise over \$100 million per year, and would enable funding for so many more public services<sup>2</sup>. When our tax code is equitable, it removes the unfair pressure that pits school funding against health care, housing against highways, and the needs of some communities against the needs of their neighbors. I strongly urge you to vote in support of LD 1089 and LD 1047 and make Maine’s tax code fairer. Thank you for your time.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.indeed.com/career/social-worker/salaries/ME>

<sup>2</sup> <https://mainersfortaxfairness.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Testify-in-Support-of-LD-1089-and-LD-1047-MFTF.pdf>