

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan Murphy, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Olivia Stockly, I am from Cumberland, and I am a third-year medical student in the Maine Track Program at Tufts University School of Medicine. I am writing in support of LD 581, "An Act to Fund the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program."

I have spent nearly the entirety of my life in Maine, born and raised in Cumberland, pursuing my undergraduate studies at Bates College in Lewiston, and returning here for my medical school training. There is no greater privilege to me than spending my medical training in Maine. I chose the Maine Track program with distinct goal of practicing medicine in Maine for the duration of my career, giving back to the community that raised me.

There are many commitments one must take in their pursuit of becoming a doctor. Years of schooling, dedication to constant learning, and taking time away from friends and family for the care of others, to name a few. Unfortunately, one of the biggest obstacles in this pursuit is not the devotion of students to the work, but rather the financial burden that plagues them.

The scholarships through Doctors for Maine's Future are an important piece of the Maine Track that allows students some relief from this financial burden. While I am not personally a recipient of the scholarship, I have seen the significant impact that they have on my classmates and friends. I have been a part of countless discussions with my classmates about managing loans and finances, watching them take time away from their studies in order to afford to continue their work. Without the scholarships, many students might not have been able to afford medical school, and certainly may not have been able to commit to the Maine Track program.

Financial burdens should not be a defining feature of decision making about pursuing medical school, and with Maine experiencing a shortage of physicians, we simply cannot afford to add more barriers to medical education and the training of our future workforce. Terminating the funding for these scholarships would harm more than just the student recipient, it would dissuade applicants to the Maine Track for no reason other than financial implications. Funding these scholarships is a display of commitment to Maine, its residents, and their health. I urge you to support LD 581, "An Act to Fund the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program"

Sincerely,  
Olivia Stockly  
Tufts University School of Medicine – Maine Track Program Class of 2026