



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Michelle Boyer in support of

**LD 363, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Create the School
Capital Improvement Fund**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, my name is Michelle Boyer, and I represent House District 123, which includes part of Cape Elizabeth. I come before you all today to testify in support of **LD 363, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Create the School Capital Improvement Fund**.

I am speaking in support of LD 363 because we have a problem in Maine with aging school buildings. As we're all aware, the Governor's Commission on School Construction, which was scheduled to publish recommendations this week, has asked for additional time. LD 363 offers a pathway to help provide some relief for our aging school's problem.

The average school building in Maine was built between 1955 and 1975, with an average age of 54 years¹. Maine is unique. It is a geographically large state, but also one of the least populated. Currently, we are only moving a few schools forward at a time through the Capital Construction Program, and it is simply not enough. Costs continue to rise, and fewer schools are being built.

Public schools are a vital part of our communities. They are not just important for educating students; they also employ teachers, staff, bus drivers, etc. It's important that our schools are thriving, and school buildings are an important component of a thriving school.

Thank you for your time.

¹ <https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.do/files/inline-files/Governors%20Commission%20-%20November%2015%20Summary%20Meeting%20-%2011.26.2024.pdf>