

Testimony in favor of LD 1219  
Karol Maybury, Professor of Psychology UMF

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and other members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Karol Maybury and I work at the University of Maine at Farmington as a Professor of Psychology and reside in Wilton. I am writing to testify in support of LD 1219, An Act to Increase State Funding for the Campuses of the University of Maine System.

UMF's Psychology program has multiple tracks: a quantitative track for experimental psychology and graduate school bound students, and business and technology-oriented students; and a clinical track for counseling students who will serve Maine residents directly after graduation, or after completing a master's in counseling.

In 2020, UMF launched a robust graduate program in counseling focused on serving rural Maine populations, which have been woefully underserved and in desperate need of mental health support for individuals and families.

In my experimental psychology lab, Maine students learn statistical modeling, experimental design, and how to extrapolate those skills for post-graduate positions. Many of our students go on to work in banks, businesses, graduate labs in experimental psychology and some even have established their OWN businesses (like Noah Bissel who founded Bissell Brothers' Brewing).

The students in my UMF experimental lab present at conferences on their own designed research, as well as assist me in my research endeavors. We're currently collecting data, along with UMA, on a national study of pilots, personality and safety communication on the flight deck. We aim to identify personality and social dynamics that inhibit expression of safety concerns, or delays and fluidity of expressing oneself in psychologically fraught environments, hypothesizing that understanding such delays might change training protocols for greater safety.

We need to attract more businesses to Maine, including tech industries. To do this we need a well-educated workforce (with writing, research and critical thinking skills). Experiential education is central to UMF's mission; if you're using the metric of our deliberately interdisciplinary experiences, internship placements, and post-graduate employment, one can clearly see the potency of a UMF education for Maine.

But we can't do it without monetary support.

Your funding enables our current students to develop into mature citizens and contributing members of society. I can't think of a better investment of tax dollars.