



**Julie McCabe**

26 Davis Street #2

Lewiston, ME 04240

Residence: (240) 498-9332

[Julia.McCabe@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Julia.McCabe@legislature.maine.gov)

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

April 24, 2025

*Testimony of Rep. Julie McCabe in support of*  
**LD 1433, Resolve, to Establish a Working Waterfront  
Infrastructure Engineer Corps Pilot Program and to Conduct a  
Feasibility Study of a Higher Education Service Corps Program**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

Good afternoon Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. My name is Julie McCabe and I represent District 93, which is part of Lewiston.

I am pleased to co-sponsor and testify today on behalf of **LD 1433, Resolve, to Establish a Working Waterfront Infrastructure Engineer Corps Pilot Program and to Conduct a Feasibility Study of a Higher Education Service Corps Program** and thank Representative Rielly for bringing this bill forward.

This bill is an important step towards bolstering our state's workforce and focuses critical attention on the increasingly vulnerable infrastructure on our coastline. The creation of a Working Waterfront Infrastructure Engineer Corps Pilot Program offers students at the University of Maine with the opportunity to conduct important research, building that bridge between their academic endeavors and the working waterfront economy that our state relies on.

It additionally requires a feasibility study for the development of a higher education service corps. From my first years teaching, service has been a core component of my instruction. We know that service learning engages students in academics, but it does so much more than that by helping to build soft skills and self-efficacy — traits that are universally applicable. This bill is a logical extension of K-12 efforts currently underway and brings a renewed emphasis on service learning at the higher education level. It begins the process of studying what shape a higher education service corps could take, potentially creating thousands of service learning opportunities to Maine's students.

I was lucky enough to participate in service programs during college and know firsthand their varied benefits. Through these programs, I was able to grow my teaching skills and my desire to be a teacher, and more importantly, a teacher in Maine. It is one thing to study during college and work hard to succeed in academics, but it is a whole other thing to contribute civically to your community, to give back and feel that larger than life, larger than one-self feeling of pride.

By participating in community-based service learning programs during college, my connections to Maine, my pride and investment in my adopted community grew. This experience of service and retention is not unique.

As I have learned recently sitting on the Health and Human Services Committee, when doctoral residents complete their clinicals in Maine, they are more likely than not to stay here in Maine to start their careers. We all know of the workforce shortages in our state. This bill provides a desperately needed avenue to grow our workforce and retain Maine's capable and dedicated higher-education students.

Looking back, I am beyond grateful for my service-learning programs during college. I want more students at all of our public universities and community colleges to have the same opportunities for service, growth and connection during their own academic journey. By passing LD 1433, we can invest in the next generation and their meaningful work.