

January 29, 2026

Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Testimony in Support of LD 2008, An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics and Clarifying Sending School Administrative Unit Obligations

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Shawn Roderick, and I am a resident of Readfield, Maine. I am the proud parent of an MSSM Penguin, my daughter Annalise, who is currently in her second year at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics. I am here today in strong support of LD 2008, An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics and Clarifying Sending School Administrative Unit Obligations.

MSSM has had a profound and life changing impact on my daughter. She is excelling academically, gaining confidence, and developing a deep passion for learning, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The school has given her opportunities that simply would not have been possible otherwise.

The students I have met at MSSM are among Maine's brightest and best. They are motivated and deeply engaged in their studies. It is obvious that this school brings together exceptional young people and helps them flourish.

But that excellence does not happen on its own. Funding is really needed to ensure the school can continue to support students like mine and students from every part of the state. MSSM has been flat funded for many years even as costs have increased, and without adequate support, the quality of the program and the opportunities it provides could be at risk.

MSSM is worth every dollar invested in it. The education it provides not only changes the lives of individual students but also benefits Maine's future workforce and economy. Supporting LD 2008 will help ensure that talented students can continue to attend and thrive regardless of financial barriers, and that this remarkable institution can continue its mission for years to come.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support LD 2008 and continue to support the Maine School of Science and Mathematics. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time.