

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

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Statement in support of the Maine Community College System's portion of LD 2212, An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027. Part A, page 17 and Language QQQ.

Senator Rotundo, Senator Rafferty, Representative Gattine and Representative Murphy, members of the Joint Standing Committee Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I am Victoria Wile, and I am a student in the Facilities Maintenance and Management program at Central Maine Community College in Auburn, and I reside in Gray. I am testifying today in support of the Maine Community College System's portion of LD 2212, that continue the Maine Free College program.

Good Morning,

As previously mentioned, my name is Victoria Wile and I am a student of Central Maine Community College.

At CMCC, I have accomplished a lot. I am CM's 2025 Student of the Year. I have completed my degree in Building Construction Technology, and I am currently working towards my Facilities Maintenance and Management degree. I work as a student on the College Maintenance Team, and I am the president of our chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, one of our campus's honor societies.

There are very few places I can say I haven't set foot on our campus. And I appreciate it each day.

I can't say I wouldn't be here without free college, because that's definitely not who I am. But I can say Free College gave me more opportunities, and especially experiences that I don't think I could have wished for myself.

Without free college, I would have been counting every penny. But rather than invest in my future, it would have been to pay off my debts.

I was able to enjoy my college experience, focus on homework and learning practical skills, go on college trips to places like Salem, Massachusetts, and London, and get all the supplies I needed without fear of where the money was going to come from.

Also, school shopping for college is a lot more fun when you get to show up to class, on the first day, with name-brand quality tools you know will last a lifetime, and throughout your future career, and make you look cool while doing it, rather than purchasing the cheapest thing off the shelf.

The more I learn at CMCC, the more prepared, more experienced, and more knowledgeable I will be when the time comes, and I get out into the field.

So, truly thank you all for considering giving other students like me a better chance for an amazing college experience and more opportunities to future their endeavors.