



February 20, 2026

LD 2212: An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, 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

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Ingwerson, Representative Murphy, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Education and Cultural Affairs

I am speaking on behalf of the Maine Library Association in strong support of the Governor's supplemental budget as it relates to the Maine State Library.

We are sincerely grateful that the Governor has included the Maine State Library's top three priorities in this proposal. This investment reflects a clear understanding of how essential library services are to the strength and well-being of Maine communities.

State funding for half of the Maine InfoNet executive director position sustains the shared systems that allow libraries across Maine to lend to one another, expand access to materials, and make efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Because of this infrastructure, a resident in a small rural town has the same opportunity to access books, research materials, and educational resources as someone in a larger city. That kind of equity strengthens educational outcomes, supports workforce development, and connects people to the information they need to thrive.

Moving the Library Section Supervisor position in Public Outreach from federal to state funding reinforces Maine's commitment to serving every community. This work supports rural libraries, provides guidance and training for local library staff, and helps ensure that seniors, families, and individuals with limited internet access can fully participate in civic and economic life.

Shifting a vacant Librarian Specialized Services position to state funding provides stability for services that reach some of our most vulnerable residents. These services expand access to reading materials and information for individuals who face barriers to traditional library use, promoting literacy, independence, and lifelong learning.

Together, these investments make Maine communities stronger, more informed, and more connected. Libraries are often the only free, welcoming public spaces in a community — places



where people seek education, job resources, access to technology, and human connection. State support ensures that these services remain reliable and resilient.

On behalf of the Maine Library Association, thank you for recognizing the value of the Maine State Library and for your continued commitment to the people of Maine. We respectfully urge your support of these provisions in the supplemental budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Skawinski, President
Maine Library Association
On behalf of the MLA Executive Board