

Testimony on LD 2212

Budget Hearing

February 25, 2026

Good afternoon Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Housing Committees.

My name is Susan Kiralis. I live in Vassalboro, Maine. Here today to testify about the proposed \$300 check by governor Janet Mills. To receive money from a sitting governor who is currently running a congressional election, brings up discomfort. I come from a background shaped by political corruption and broken trust, and actions like this naturally make me cautious.

Secondly, I want to emphasize that we should not take for granted that Maine currently has resources available in its Rainy Day Fund. As a small household, I know how important it is to have savings set aside for emergencies. That kind of fiscal stability should be respected and protected, not treated casually.

I do believe deeply in guaranteed income. If we are going to distribute direct cash, I would have preferred to see this proposal structured as \$300 per month for the next 12 months, targeted to low-income and no-income Mainers. One-time checks do little to stabilize families who are facing ongoing and systemic financial insecurity.

I am also concerned that the most vulnerable people in our state those without stable housing, banking access, or consistent documentation may not receive this \$300 at all.

Personally, I would like to see this funding invested in initiatives that grow Maine's long-term budget capacity, so we can sustainably support guaranteed income programs that truly help people. Direct cash assistance works

I urge this legislature to continue exploring and supporting guaranteed income initiatives, especially for individuals and families raising children, so they can responsibly care for themselves, their households, and their communities.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to share my perspective on the \$300 check proposal.