

March 9th, 2026

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
Maine State Legislature  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Public Hearing on LD 2226

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amie Morrison and I am currently a School Board Director for RSU 57 (Massabessic) representing the Town of Alfred. RSU 57 serves the six towns of Alfred, Limerick, Lyman, Newfield, Shapleigh, and Waterboro, here in rural York County Maine. I have served on the Board for almost 3 years and am also a parent to a student who attends RSU 57. I grew up here in Maine. The current EPS formula was fully implemented in 2006, the year I graduated from Noble High School (MSAD 60) 20 years ago. I am writing today to ask your committee to support LD 2226- An Act to Improve Maine's Essential Programs and Services School Funding Formula.

The current EPS formula is inadequate for today's educational needs and it is long overdue for adjustments to support public education in communities like mine.

RSU 57 is a district dedicated to serving its students and we are faced with limited resources. Currently we spend 2,000 dollars per pupil less than the state average and many thousands of dollars less per pupil than districts 20 minutes from us on the Southern Maine coast. How the current EPS formula calculates local ability to pay does not address economically disadvantaged districts like RSU 57. Of our 3,885 students, 46% qualify as economically disadvantaged, while our taxpayers (under the current formula) shoulder 59% of the total cost of public education. These are working families who are being taxed like wealthier districts just east of us and we still struggle to fill in the gaps the formula leaves us with. The current formula creates a divide in public education that correlates where you live to how many opportunities you are offered in school.

Adopting LD 2226 directly addresses this imbalance by implementing the income adjusted ability to pay provision of a 90/10 calculation instead of just relying on property values. While this would help districts like mine right now, I also believe that LD 2226 should just be the starting point. Continuing conversation and adjustments should be made more regularly than every 20 years.

Without direct change to the EPS formula I fear that young Maine families will not be able to work, live, and thrive here. Growing up in Maine in the 80s and 90s there were always discussions about an exodus of young people leaving Maine which continues to this day. It's no secret that Maine's communities are aging. We have the oldest population in the United States.

If we do not fund and invest in education adequately, not only are we doing a disservice to our current children but for the future of the State of Maine.

If we want to better our public schools and support communities then I urge this committee to move LD 2226 forward. This formula change would benefit our students at RSU 57 immediately. This bill would address financial concerns in my community, support my taxpayers, support local families, and strengthen the broader Maine educational community. Thank you for your work on these important issues.

Respectfully,  
Amie Morrison  
RSU 57 Board Member  
Alfred, Maine Resident