

TESTIMONY
CRESCENCIA MAURER
BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCARBOROUGH, MAINE

MARCH 9, 2026
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

My name is Crescencia Maurer and I am a member of the Scarborough Board of Education.

First, I want to applaud the legislature's effort to develop a more equitable state funding formula for education. That is the aim of LD 2226. It is an important and necessary reform. BUT further improvements are needed to the proposed changes contained in this bill.

Changes to the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding formula proposed in LD 2226 ignores one significant reality: Maine has the oldest population in the nation. The average age in Maine is 45 years old. Maine also has the greatest share of people over 65 years old: 23%. Far exceeding Florida which comes in at 20%.

Why does this issue matter? And what does it have to do with funding education in Maine? It matters because the proposed changes to the school funding formula effectively penalizes communities with a disproportionate number of seniors and a relatively low share of school age children. Scarborough is one of these communities.

The median age of Scarborough residents is 48 years. Fully 3 years older than the state average, which is already the highest in the nation. Likewise, the share of Scarborough's population over 65 years old is 25%—even higher than Maine's nation leading 23%. The share of Scarborough households with at least one person 65 or older is even higher: 39%.

Ignoring this reality creates generational inequality. The more than \$1 million cut in state subsidy for Scarborough—which equals 13% of our total state funding—will have to be borne by local taxpayers. Many of our senior taxpayers live in homes that have exploded in value, but whose disposable incomes are flat or fixed. The state's new funding formula penalizes this population, as it equates property value with ability to pay.

You must fix this problem! Please take into account school district property owners with fixed, flat or falling incomes. They are already struggling with the cost of living and resurgent inflation.

Thank you.

March 9, 2026

Education and Cultural Affairs Committee
Maine House of Representatives
Maine State House, Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to you as a member of the Scarborough Board of Education.

First, I want to applaud the legislature's effort to develop a more equitable state funding formula for education, which is the aim of LD 2226. This is an important and necessary reform. BUT further improvements are needed to the proposed changes contained in this bill.

The revised Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding formula proposed in LD 2226 ignores one significant reality: Maine has the oldest population in the nation. The average age in Maine is 45 years old. Maine also has the greatest share of people over 65 years old: 23%. Far exceeding Florida which comes in at 20%.

Why does this issue matter? And what does it have to do with funding education in Maine? It matters because the proposed changes to the school funding formula effectively penalizes communities with a disproportionate number of seniors and a relatively low share of school age children. Scarborough is one of these communities.

The median age of Scarborough residents is 48 years old. Fully 3 years older than the state average, which is already the highest in the nation. Likewise, the share of Scarborough's population over 65 years old is about 25%—even higher than Maine's nation leading 23%. The share of Scarborough households with at least one person 65 or older is even higher: 39%.

Ignoring this reality creates generational inequality. The \$1,000,000 cut in state subsidy for Scarborough—which equals about 13% of our overall state funding—will have to be borne by local taxpayers. Many of our senior taxpayers live in homes that have exploded in value, but whose disposable incomes are relatively flat or fixed. The state's new funding formula penalizes this population, as it equates property value with ability to pay.

You must fix this problem! Please take into account school district property owners with fixed, flat or falling incomes. They are already struggling with the cost of living and resurgent inflation.

With appreciation,



Crescencia Maurer
Board Member
Scarborough Board of Education