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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Becky Smith, Dir. Government and Community Relations
RE: Amendment to LD 247, *An Act To Improve Maine's Education System*
DATE: May 13, 2021

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and member of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. Please accept this testimony in support of the amendment presented today on LD 247, *An Act To Improve Maine's Education System* which replaces the concept draft and changes the title of the bill to: *Resolve, To Reestablish the Commission to Study College Affordability and College Completion*. We would like to thank Rep. Daughtry for bringing this initiative forward.

The amended language reestablishes a Commission created by the 126th Maine Legislature that issued a report in December 2014 and asks this new commission to review and update the information provided in that report. We believe that an update to this report would be incredibly helpful as policymakers and Maine's institutions of higher education seek to increase both college completion by and affordability for our students. We also believe the inclusion of a high school guidance counsellor is appropriate and will add value to the discussion.

The Maine Community College System is pleased to be part of this Commission and is willing to participate and to assist in staffing the Commission.

Thank you.