



The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
Testimony from Husson University, Bangor, Maine  
**In Support Of**

L.D. 871

An Act to Provide Support for the Maine Discovery Museum's Informal Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Programs throughout the State

20 April 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Lynne Coy-Ogan, Senior Vice president for Academic Affairs and Provost at Husson University. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of L.D. 871, An Act to Provide Support for Maine Discovery Museum's Informal Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education throughout the State.

Husson University's mission is to inspire and prepare students for professional careers in current and emerging fields through programs informed by the sciences and humanities. We are writing to provide our enthusiastic endorsement of Maine Discovery Museum's request for financial support for two programs which it provides free of charge to Maine citizens, namely, the Maine Invention Convention and the Maine Science Festival.

Maine has national and world-leading research in a wide variety of sectors in science and engineering and we know that innovation and advances in Maine are not yet reaching their full potential. The Maine Invention Convention and the Maine Science Festival engage people from all ages and throughout the State in learning and thinking creatively about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). By participating in the Science Festival, Husson University faculty members and students have first-hand experience of the enthusiasm that program generates. We are grateful for the Maine Discovery Museum and pleased to collaborate with them in fostering interest and opportunities in STEM for the citizens of Maine.

Programs such as the Maine Invention Convention and the Maine Science Festival are critical to the long-term viability and sustainability of our State which seeks to increase economic opportunities in the professional fields associated with STEM. The web of collaboration and support we provide to the Maine Discovery Museum help retain and attract talented youth to our wonderful State. Efforts to augment enthusiasm and innovation in STEM fields will help us generate future economic growth and also meet the needs of our aging population. Your support will promote a vibrant community actively responding to emerging opportunities in STEM related fields.

Thank you for considering this letter of support for the Maine Discovery Museum. We hope that it provides a higher education context of the importance of the Maine Invention Convention and the Maine Science Festival.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynne Coy-Ogan".

Lynne Coy-Ogan, Ed.D.  
Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost  
Husson University

Lynne Coy-Ogan  
Husson University  
LD 871