

FROM THE DESK OF

CONNOR J. ARCHER

January 25th, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Connor Archer and I am the founder & Chairman/CEO of The Courageous Steps Project, a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports children and young adults with various abilities and challenges in Maine. I am also a 25 year old who lives with High Functioning Autism in Bangor.

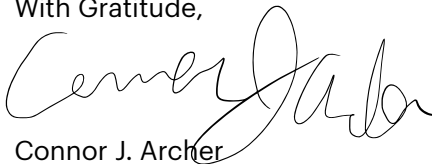
I am pleased to submit this written testimony for the new LD 2166 legislation, "An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder", presented by Representative Rebecca Millett that will support the creation of a higher education grant program that is inclusive for children with developmental disabilities.

Maine has made a commitment to improving Transition programs and services for young adults. This bill would transform the way we provide opportunities for all young adults here in Maine, regardless of ability or challenges. Just imagine the possibilities that will come about funding this new program.

Supporting this bill, would only enhance opportunities for our young adults with disabilities and put them on a path towards achieving full independence in living a fulfilling life. It would be a lifeline for young adults who otherwise may not be able to access a scholarship or financial aid to support their post-secondary education. In addition, this would only add to the Mills' Administration's commitment to supporting accessible and inclusive higher education for all. By investing in young adults, we are bettering our economy, workforce, and communities all over Maine which only enhances our future for all Mainers.

I look forward to seeing this bill move forward and impact the lives of young adults looking to create an independent and fulfilling future for themselves just like the rest of us. As a young adult who lives with Autism and benefited from a quality post-secondary education in Maine, I am firm believer that we need to give all young adults inclusive and equal opportunities for that quality education.

With Gratitude,



Connor J. Archer

[CONTACT ME](#)