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As a parent of an MSSM student, I am so grateful for the opportunity and education that my son is receiving at this remarkable institution. He has found his community, has access to exciting learning opportunities, is challenged academically, and is thriving as a whole person.

Our student has always been strong academically but being neurodiverse, he has often struggled with not fitting in. He has found a safe and inclusive community that accepts him for who he is. The support the MSSM administration, staff, teachers, and residential life team provides for these students is incredible. They make parents feel included and supported in raising healthy young adults that are both academically and socially ready for college and their next steps in life.

MSSM has the ability to bring amazing academic and experiential learning opportunities to the students that many schools in Maine cannot offer. This is a community of learners that are insatiably curious. MSSM fans their flame for learning and empowers and enables the students to push their educational and creative boundaries in so many different ways, even beyond Math and Science. They create space for theater, creative writing, book club, community service, music, sports, wellness, languages in addition to math team, robotics, chess, and astronomy.

Living in Southern Maine and in the Greater Portland area, we are very fortunate that our children have options for their high school education and are enabled to receive the best education for them. Not all families are as fortunate. MSSM provides this incredible educational opportunity for students from all parts of Maine, regardless of their socio-economic background. MSSM levels the playing field and makes accessible a top-notch education for our brightest Maine students.

Historically, MSSM has been able to provide these incredible opportunities for talented Maine students by being frugal and creative and through the generous support of the MSSM community. However, this is not sustainable long-term, to keep up with inflation, the rapidly changing technical evolution, and what is required going forward to educate our Maine students. The support of this bill is imperative to continue to enable MSSM to build the future generations of Maine leaders by giving them the educational opportunities and an environment to thrive.