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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



HEATHER JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER

**Testimony Of: Kate Foye
In Support of LD 1517
An Act To Establish the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement
Institute
April 27, 2021**

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the IDEA Committee, my name is Kate Foye and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Department of Economic and Community Development. I am here to testify in support of LD 1517.

This proposal would establish a model similar to MEPRI, used by the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, through which the University could conduct research and evaluation to inform the policymaking and investments of the Legislature, State and other stakeholders about programs and policies related to economic and workforce development, student debt, and other areas within the Committee's jurisdiction.

DECD testified in support of this Legislation in the 129th Legislative Session citing that the Department sees this bill as one of the ways we can measure the success of our work. This tool will help us to see what programs are working, if we need to adjust make them better, or if a program has run its course and needs to be phased out.

As written the bill describes the 18 required steering committee members and establishes that each member, other than ex officio members, serves a 2-year term and that the steering committee meets at least 4 times per year. The Department respectfully requests that the sponsor consider adjusting the steering committee to reflect the legislation that previously passed out of the IDEA Committee in the 129th session.

Thank you and I would be happy to take any questions.