



Maine Municipal
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee, my name is Neal Goldberg and I am offering this testimony in support of LD 1517 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association at the direction of its statewide Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

Maine's labor shortage comes more squarely into focus each year. From the perspective of the municipal officials who comprise the Association's Policy Committee, now is the time to enact state policies which support the dedicated efforts going on locally and regionally amongst the public and private sectors to make Maine's communities and businesses more attractive to workers. In the Association's view, it is sensible for the state to work with the University of Maine system to craft and support a new Institute to aggregate, vet, analyze and summarize data that may advise the Legislature regarding public policy outcomes.

State workforce policies impact every single municipality. Retaining and recruiting employees is a shared goal, if not a necessity. The Association believes the input of local economic development directors and other municipal specialists would add value to this Institute's efforts, and stands ready to work with the state in this endeavor.