



Written Testimony for the IDEA&B Committee  
LD 262 An Act to Strengthen Maine’s Workforce

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Committee. My name is Tony Payne, the Senior Vice President of External Affairs at MEMIC as well as former Chair of the Institute for Civic Leadership, a Maine Development Foundation program.

**The state of Maine is in an existential crisis** – we are old and getting older. We are losing our workforce while the number of retirees grows at an astounding pace. Elders who are in need of care-giving services are at an even greater risk unlike any time in modern Maine history. We desperately need to replenish the workforce by supporting innovation and collaboration.

Percent Change in Population			
	2020-2025	2025-2030	2020-2030
Age 0-19 years	-7.4%	-2.3%	-9.5%
Age 20-39 years	1.5%	-3.5%	-2.0%
Age 40-64 years	-4.7%	-3.0%	-7.6%
Age 65+ years	17.6%	15.8%	36.2%

Bureau of Labor Statistics

In 1977, the 108<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature wisely established funding for the newly created Maine Development Foundation – a wonderful public-private partnership to facilitate economic development, to aggregate measures of growth and to enhance the state’s quality of life. It was an act of great foresight.

In financial crisis, the 114<sup>th</sup> suspended that vital support. Today, however, with a changing economy and workforce challenges, the 131<sup>st</sup> can renew the state’s original commitment to share in funding for these valued services.

MDF’s power as a convenor and leader in economic development for the entire state impacts every community in your respective districts. From Acton to Ashland and Gilead to Grand Lakes Stream, MDF is positively impacting the future for taxpayers, employers and all generations. They have a broader view than most organizations and are keenly interested in new ideas and innovation in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

With about 17,000 Maine workers’ compensation insurance policyholders located in every county and whose employees are located in every town, MEMIC shares a direct interest in the health of the economy in your backyard. That is why we, too, have long committed funding in support of MDF. We hope you will recommend that the state rejoins the effort and reaps all the benefits of a robust economy. Thank you.