

**Testimony on behalf of the Maine Independent Colleges Association
In Support of
LD 1016, An Act to Support College Student Participation as Policy Interns for State
Legislators
Committee on State and Local Government
April 20, 2023**

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Dan Walker, and I represent the Maine Independent Colleges Association in support of LD 1016, which seeks to create a legislative internship program for college students from Maine.

MICA represents 11 private, nonprofit colleges and universities¹ throughout Maine that serve over 17,000 students, with more than half from Maine. Collectively, the 11 institutions are an economic force and an integral part of Maine's Higher Educational eco-system. While they share the attributes of being private and nonprofit, these institutions are highly diverse and serve very different aspects of the educational needs of Maine people.

Students from MICA institutions participate in internships throughout the State and state government, and MICA would support a more formalized legislative internship program that would be available to students from the diverse group of MICA institutions. MICA especially supports the amended version of the bill that would create a Committee to study the development of a legislative internship pilot program, and we would be happy to participate in such a Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthy legislative effort.

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¹ Bates College, Bowdoin College, Colby College, College of the Atlantic, Husson University, Maine College of Art, Roux Institute at Northeastern University, St. Joseph's College of Maine, Thomas College, Unity College, and University of New England.