

**Testimony to support LD948 –
“An Act To Support Boys & Girls Clubs through Lottery Revenue”**

Good Morning Committee Members,

My name is Ingrid Stanchfield and I am the CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kennebec Valley and a member of the Maine Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. I am asking for your support of LD948, an act to support Boys & Girls Clubs through lottery revenue.

I am excited about this legislation as it could provide increased opportunities for youth to engage in afterschool and summer programs that they might not have access to already.

My Club is located in Gardiner and serves of 1,800 registered members each year with licensed Child Care, teen programming and sports, across two school districts. We serve over 75,000 meals annually and provide a Friday Food Pantry.

This past year our Club has been pushed to the limits and I am proud to say my staff have responded to the daily need of our kids and families in ways we never would have imagined. Our Club has been open through the pandemic going above and beyond on a shoestring budget.

Child Care and teen staff became Remote Learning teachers, kids who normally would be at the Club 15 hours a week are now at the Club up to 55 hours a week due to our school district providing education in a hybrid model. Needless to say, our Club and Clubs throughout the State of Maine are an “essential service” to kids and families. 67% of our parents are essential workers and did not have the liberty to “just stay home”. They needed us more than ever over the past year.

Please support LD 948 and help us provide a safe place for kids every day regardless of the issues we face. Kids are our top priority and we need every avenue of support available to ensure Clubs are always in a position to respond to our members daily needs at a minutes notice.

Maine currently does not have any funding dedicated to afterschool and OST programs. We would love to see dedicated funds to support afterschool /out-of-school time programs across the state to ensure youth have access to high-quality learning opportunities. When schools closed due to the pandemic, Clubs responded to our core mission by staying open and meeting the needs of those who needed us most.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

