



Maine Municipal Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of

LD 1010- *An Act To Establish the Maine Service Fellows Program*

April 7, 2021

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Rebecca Graham and I am providing testimony in support of LD 1010 on behalf of MMA at the direction of our 70-member Legislative Policy Committee.

Municipal officials from across the state are struggling to fill vacancies that are vital to the proper and timely delivery of important services to our residents and visitors. Officials from rural communities who must provide the same mandated services that more urbanized communities provide, struggle to attract and retain employees for highly skilled positions such as storm and waste water engineers, code enforcement officers, police officers and planners due to the fiscal capacity of the community.

Officials welcome the implementation of the program proposed in LD 1010. From a municipal perspective, not only does this approach allow individuals to give back to their communities it could result in a career in public service and an opportunity for communities to fill important vacancies with highly qualified candidates.

For all of these reasons, officials request that you support the passage of LD 1010 which will support Maine's students, expand opportunities for communities and possibly ignite a passion for public service for the next generation in the process.