**The Maine Heritage Policy Center**

**Testimony to Oppose LD 2060**

**“An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide a New Dormitory Facility at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics”**

Senator Breen, Representative Gattine and distinguished members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Adam Crepeau. I serve as a policy analyst at The Maine Heritage Policy Center. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to LD 2060.

The Maine Heritage Policy Center generally opposes borrowing, even if we agree with the stated goal of the project. Using taxpayer dollars to pay for a new dormitory facility at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics is fiscally irresponsible and a symbol of bad governance. As I’m sure this committee is well aware, taxpayers from across the state would be responsible for paying the $10 million as well as the interest on the bond. For a 10 year term, the interest accrued would likely be more than $1 million for a total of at least $11 million.[[1]](#footnote-0)

According to the Office of the Maine State Treasurer, taxpayers are already slated to pay more than $643 million for existing general obligation bonds between 2020 and 2029.[[2]](#footnote-1) Of this, $533.5 million will be paid on the principal amount while $109.5 million will be paid in interest.[[3]](#footnote-2) Under LD 2060, the state could add another $10 million plus interest to that total. Taxpayers deserve better.

These funds could be better spent on providing real tax relief to Maine citizens, eliminating Medicaid waitlists for Maine’s most vulnerable citizens or funding our crumbling transportation infrastructure. Constructing new dormitories is not even close to the most pressing priority, particularly for state government.

Because this bonding package is fiscally irresponsible and unnecessary, The Maine Heritage Policy Center urges the committee to vote, “Ought Not to Pass” on LD 2060. Thank you.

1. <https://mmbb.com/rptEstimate.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <https://www.maine.gov/treasurer/debts_bonds/debt_service_summary.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)