



UWSM – First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislative Priorities

Affected Issues	Legislation	Summary	Actions	Outcomes
BILLS APPROVED BY CISC				
Homelessness / Housing / ALICE	LD 641 : An Act to Support Diversion Efforts to Address Homelessness in Maine	This bill seeks to expand Maine’s Housing Problem Solving (HPS) program by doubling its funding to \$1.5 million. The HPS program is designed to prevent homelessness before it starts by providing targeted financial assistance and support to individuals and families facing a housing crisis. Currently, HPS operates with a budget of \$750,000 and successfully helped 519 Mainers stay housed in 2024 alone.	UWSM introduced bill with Rep. Marc Malon. UWSM submitted testimony in support.	Public hearing held. Work session not yet scheduled.
Housing & Zoning	LD 128 : An Act to Support Permitting of Certain Multifamily Housing Developments Under the Site Location of Development Laws	This bill amends the definition of "subdivision" for purposes of the site location of development laws to allow lots that include detached residential housing designed to accommodate up to 4 families, including accessory dwelling units, instead of just single-family housing. This bill also specifies that rules made by the Board of Environmental Protection to permit, by rule, any class of activities that would otherwise require individual issuance of a permit or approval by the board are routine technical rules.	UWSM submitted testimony in support.	Public hearing held. Work session not yet scheduled.
Youth Opportunity & ALICE	LD 193 : An Act to Fund Students in Maine Schools Who Are Experiencing Homelessness	This bill amends the school funding formula to add an additional weight of 0.50 per student experiencing homelessness. This additional weight is applied to the per-pupil count in both kindergarten to grade 8 and grades 9 to 12 funding calculations, aiming to increase financial support for schools with homeless students.	UWSM will submit testimony in support.	Public hearing held. Work session not yet scheduled.
Mental Health & Substance Use	LD 219 : An Act to Limit Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs to a One-for-one Exchange	This bill proposes changing Maine’s Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) from the current 1:100 exchange model to a 1:1 exchange policy. Under the existing system, individuals can receive up to 100 clean syringes per visit, which aligns with recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control	UWSM submitted testimony neither for nor against.	Public hearing held. Work session held.



		and Prevention (CDC) to reduce the transmission of blood-borne diseases.		
Mental Health & Substance Use	LD 514 : Resolve to Raise MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Detoxification Services	This bill directs the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to raise the MaineCare reimbursement rate for non-hospital-based detox services from \$403 to \$594.38 per day by January 1, 2026. This adjustment aligns Maine’s rate with New Hampshire’s and helps keep detox facilities financially viable, preventing the closure of critical treatment beds for individuals in substance use recovery. The current reimbursement falls far below the nearly \$700 per day cost of operating a detox bed, putting Maine’s limited detox capacity at risk.	UWSM advocated for this bill prior to the work session.	HHS Committee voted ought not to pass in the work session.
Homelessness / Housing / ALICE	LD 698 : An Act to Sustain Emergency Homeless Shelters in Maine	This bill provides \$5 million in each of the next two years to support emergency homeless shelters in the State.	UWSM submitted testimony in support.	Public hearing held. Work session not yet scheduled.

CISC APPROVED BIENNIAL BUDGET INITIATIVES

Initiatives	Amount Proposed	Summary	Actions	Outcomes
Youth Opportunity	\$6 million	\$6 million to fully fund universal free meals in Maine’s schools, maintaining the program at an annual cost of \$64 million.	UWSM will advocate that this be included in the biennial budget.	This was included in LD 609 and was passed into law. This will take effect on June 20, 2025.
HOME Fund Reduction	\$10 million redirected to General Fund	Redirects \$10 million from the HOME Fund to the General Fund over the biennium.	UWSM will oppose this proposal in the biennial budget.	Public hearing and work session held. This will need to be addressed in



				part two of the biennial budget.
MaineCare Stability	\$118 million	Invests \$118 million annually to stabilize MaineCare, covering increased enrollment and rising health care costs.	UWSM submitted testimony in support	This was included in LD 609 and was passed into law. This will take effect on June 20, 2025.
Child Care Educator Salary Supplement	\$15 million	The Governor's FY26-27 budget proposal cuts \$15 million annually from the Child Care Salary Supplement Program.	UWSM submitted testimony in opposition. Liz Cotter Schlax and Quincy Hentzel have submitted an op-ed to the PPH opposing this proposal.	HHS voted to oppose these cuts 10-3. These cuts now lie with AFA for a final decision.
Child Care Employment Award	\$2.5 million	After a delayed rollout, the new program designed to help child care workers afford care for their own children has been resoundingly popular, with a waitlist forming within just three months of its launch in July 2024. Despite this demand and positive impact, Governor Mills is now proposing to cut the program entirely in the upcoming biennium.	UWSM submitted testimony in opposition.	HHS voted to oppose these cuts 10-3. These cuts now lie with AFA for a final decision.
Head Start Funding	\$3.6 million	The Governor's budget cuts \$3.6 million annually in state funding to support Head Start access for Maine's lower income families. The funding allowed increased access for families which is now in jeopardy.	UWSM submitted testimony in opposition.	HHS voted to oppose these cuts 10-3. These cuts now lie with AFA for a final decision.

CISC APPROVED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET INITIATIVES



Amendments to the Maine Child Care Affordability Program (Part N)	N/A	Amends the Maine Child Care Affordability Program, allowing General Funds and Other Special Revenue Funds to support any eligible family, without income restrictions.	UWSM submitted testimony in support.	The supplemental budget failed to pass. This will now need to be addressed in part two of the biennial budget.
Maine Community College System Free Community College – 2 Enrollment Years Program (Part Q)	\$7.3 million	Provides \$7.3 million in one-time funding from the General Fund surplus to the Maine Community College System to continue supporting 2 years of free community college for all eligible students.	UWSM submitted testimony in support. UWSM previously supported this initiative in past legislative sessions.	The supplemental budget failed to pass. This will now need to be addressed in part two of the biennial budget.
Limitations on Housing Assistance under the General Assistance Program (Part S)	Reduces funding	Modifies housing assistance under the General Assistance Program, capping it to a maximum of 3 months in a 12-month period per household for regular assistance. It limits municipal aid for lodging to no more than 30 days per year.	UWSM submitted testimony in opposition.	The supplemental budget failed to pass. This will now need to be addressed in part two of the biennial budget.