



Maine State Legislature
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

July 7, 2025

David Daigler
President
Maine Community College System
323 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04330

Liz Russell
President
Eastern Maine Community College
354 Hogan Road
Bangor, Maine 04401

Dear Presidents Daigler and Russell:

We, the undersigned members of the Maine State Legislature, write to convey our strongest disapproval of the inappropriate comments allegedly made by Dr. Carol Lewandowski, a professor at Eastern Maine Community College, to one of her conservative students.¹ Attempts to intimidate and silence students – especially based on religious status, ideology, and political affiliation – are completely unacceptable and run counter to the goals of higher education.

Moreover, we are profoundly concerned by the professor's flippant mockery of the student's Christian faith, and we will do everything in our power to defend the right to worship everywhere in Maine – including on our college campuses.

According to research conducted at the University of North Carolina,² nearly 70% of conservative students fear retaliation and harassment at America's institutions of higher education. Because of the comments made by Professor Lewandowski, their fears now have a face, a name, and a home at Eastern Maine Community College – unless you take appropriate action now.

There is no excuse for these comments, and we urge the system to fire this professor with immediate force and effect.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nathan Carlow
Nathan Carlow
State Representative

/s/ Sheila Lyman
Sheila Lyman
State Representative

¹ <https://www.wmtw.com/article/you-and-your-ilk-drive-me-nuts-your-hypocrisy-maine-community-college-student-says-professor-discriminating-against-her-based-political-views/65281717>

² https://fecdsurveyreport.web.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/22160/2022/08/FECD_Report_8-21-22.pdf

/s/ Kim Haggan
Kim Haggan
State Representative

/s/ Barbara Bagshaw
Barbara Bagshaw
State Representative

/s/ Katrina Smith
Katrina Smith
Assistant House Republican Leader

/s/ Alicia Collins
Alicia Collins
State Representative

/s/ Mark Cooper
Mark Cooper
State Representative

/s/ Laurel Libby
Laurel Libby
State Representative

/s/ Bob Nutting
Bob Nutting
State Representative

/s/ Amy Arata
Amy Arata
State Representative

/s/ Lucien Daigle
Lucien Daigle
State Representative

/s/ Mathew McIntyre
Mathew McIntyre
State Representative

/s/ James White
James White
State Representative

/s/ Joshua Morris
Joshua Morris
State Representative

/s/ David Boyer
David Boyer
State Representative

/s/ David Woodsome
David Woodsome
State Representative

/s/ Rolf Olsen
Rolf Olsen
State Representative

/s/ Tiffany Strout
Tiffany Strout
State Representative

/s/ Randall Greenwood
Randall Greenwood
State Representative

/s/ Elizabeth Caruso
Elizabeth Caruso
State Representative

/s/ Irene Gifford
Irene Gifford
State Representative

/s/ Shelley Rudnicki
Shelley Rudnicki
State Representative

/s/ Tammy Schmersal-Burgess
Tammy Schermsal-Burgess
State Representative

/s/ Paul Flynn
Paul Flynn
State Representative

/s/ Jack Ducharme
Jack Ducharme
State Representative

/s/ Jim Thorne
Jim Thorne
State Representative

/s/ Abigail Griffin
Abigail Griffin
State Representative

/s/ Robert Foley
Robert Foley
State Representative

/s/ Peter Wood
Peter Wood
State Representative

/s/ Michael Lance
Michael Lance
State Representative

/s/ Mike Soboleski
Mike Soboleski
State Representative

/s/ Donald Ardell
Donald Ardell
State Representative

/s/ Jennifer Poirier
Jennifer Poirier
State Representative

/s/ Rachel Henderson
Rachel Henderson
State Representative

/s/ William Tuell
William Tuell
State Representative

/s/ Trey Stewart
Trey Stewart
Senate Republican Leader

/s/ Matt Harrington
Matt Harrington
Assistant Senate Republican Leader

/s/ Sue Bernard
Sue Bernard
State Senator

/s/ Bruce Bickford
Bruce Bickford
State Senator

/s/ Dick Bradstreet
Dick Bradstreet
State Senator

/s/ Stacey Guerin
Stacey Guerin
State Senator

/s/ Marianne Moore
Marianne Moore
State Senator

/s/ Bradlee Farrin
Bradlee Farrin
State Senator

/s/ James Libby
James Libby
State Senator

/s/ Jeff Timberlake
Jeff Timberlake
State Senator

/s/ Scott Cyrway
Scott Cyrway
State Senator

/s/ Russell Black
Russell Black
State Senator

/s/ Joseph Martin
Joseph Martin
State Senator