

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee: my name is Sal Azzaretti, I'm from Dresden, and I am a 3rd Grade Teacher at Great Salt Bay Community School in Damariscotta, and I am writing in support of **LD 405, An Act to Prevent False Reporting Leading to Evacuation, Shutdown or Lockdown.**

In December, on the last day of school before Christmas break, as students were beginning to head down to the gymnasium for our Holiday assembly, an announcement was made over the intercom to evacuate the building and go to the local YMCA. Staff members and students filed out of the building and met back up in the basketball courts.

Once there, we were informed that there had been a bomb threat and that school had been canceled for the rest of the day. This was a traumatic experience for the students, who did not understand how or why this happened, or why they were missing out on an important school and community event. Little did we know at the time that this was just the beginning, and would happen two more times.

It has gotten to the point where some students expect more threats to happen, which is disruptive to their learning and harmful to their mental health.

It is frustrating that teaching students of a generation that have been exposed to incessant school shootings, now we have to bear the burden of seemingly non-stop bomb threats as well. It is unfair to the school staff, students, and community, and negatively affects each and every one of us. School does not feel safe. Staff members, and especially students, should not have to feel afraid to come to school.

Our administration and our local law enforcement have limited options to prevent the continuation of this abuse of our community. We need our elected officials to step up and give them options. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 405.