

Kevin Stilphen
PATHS
LD 436

3/9/23

Dear Honorable Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,
My name is Kevin Stilphen, and I live in Cape Elizabeth. I am the Director of Portland Arts & Technology High School, a CTE center serving Cumberland County students. I am testifying today in support of LD 436 - An Act to Provide Career and Technical Education Students with Credit Toward High School Graduation for Work Completed in Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions. This legislation would provide the framework to allow all CTE students to earn academic credit by attending and completing a two-year CTE program. Currently, some students can earn academic credit in their CTE programming; however, others cannot. The decision to award academic credit is made by the students sending school. This approach creates inequity for students. CTE students earn college credit while enrolled; PATHS currently has 120 students earning college credit while attending PATHS. However, many of these students will only receive elective credit from their sending schools, no academic credit. CTE schools in Maine have cross walked their program curriculum multiple times to identify the academic content embedded in each program; we are deliberate and explicit about the academic credit we would recommend to sending schools. I believe this bill would provide the impetus and structure to give all CTE students the same opportunity to earn academic credit while attending a CTE school.

Please consider supporting this bill.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Stilphen
13 Longfellow Drive
Cape Elizabeth, Maine