

The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Testimony from Kate Dickerson, Executive Director, Maine Discovery Museum, Bangor.

In Support Of

L.D. 1389
An Act to Establish a Mobile Learning Lab

11 April 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Kate Dickerson, and I'm the Executive Director of the Maine Discovery Museum. I'm writing with regards to L.D. 1389, An Act to Establish a Mobile Learning Lab, and my support of this Bill.

The Maine Discovery Museum (MDM) helps people of all ages to discover the world around them through creative exploration and science. We are a critical player in helping Mainers from all over the state learn, especially in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). With our three floors of interactive exhibits and robust science programming within and outside the museum (example include the Maine Science Festival and the Science Teacher Academy), MDM uses both paths to introduce Mainers to the value and importance of discovery and exploration. The Mobile Learning Lab is another asset to help Mainers learn about life science in particular.

We have seen first-hand the critical importance of science education outreach, both through our own work and with our partners. It is vital to meet students where they live and learn, and this is even more necessary in Maine where we have significant rural and underserved communities. The Mobile Learning Lab is an outstanding opportunity to introduce and expand Maine students' understanding of life science in general, and in Maine in particular. We believe the Mobile Learning Lab will help expand student and teacher understanding of life science, and will help foster interest and curiosity of those who experience it, and we look forward to partnering with the Mobile Learning Lab as we continue to meet our mission as well.

Sincerely,

Kate Dickerson
Executive Director