

Written Testimony -April 13, 2023 Public Hearing

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1367-An Act Regarding the Funding Formula for Adult Education. My name is Monique Roy and I am a former Director of Adult Education. I have worked in adult education in many roles over the past 12 years and have witnessed the lifechanging work that happens in local programs. Adult education programs focus on individual learning but it isn't just an individual that benefits from programming, it is also the communities in which an individual resides and works.

What is important about this bill is not only does it ask for an increase in adult education funding; it requires a working group to review the mechanics of adult education funding. Through this examination in how programs are funded now, decisions about how things are funded in the future can be based on the statutes that dictate how programs operate, the practical, day to day functioning of programs, as well as the needs of the learners and communities in which these programs serve.

I believe the working group, and in turn this legislative body, will discover that although the amount of programming and services for adults in Maine has risen exponentially, the funding to support programs providing these services has stayed stagnant. The demands of creating workforce development programming to support the Maine Jobs and Recovery plan in essential areas such as healthcare, IT, construction, retail, hospitality and education, is one example. In addition, many programs are being asked to supplement or complete the education of students who would normally be served by their local high school without additional funds to do so. I strongly suggest that the data reviewed by the working group include funding earmarked for adult education that flows into K-12 through the EPS formula.

Although I am no longer working in an adult education program, as a Learning and Development Director at a healthcare organization, I lean heavily on the adult education programs in my area to provide education and training to our workforce.

Adult education programs are everywhere and do everything. They are not a nice addition to a school district or town, they are an essential service that keeps Maine competitive in education and workforce development. Please support them by pushing this bill forward.

Thank you in advance for your time and dedication.

Sincerely,
Monique Roy
Director Learning and Development
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