

April 13, 2023

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Amanda Plasse-Bell and I am a student with Orono Adult Education Program RSU26. I have been a student since October 23, 2020 and my goal is to go to college for my Culinary and Pastry Arts Degree.

I am here today to testify in support of **LD 1367 - An Act Regarding the Funding Formula for Adult Education**. Adult education is an important organization in Maine and it's time that the legislature made the move to fund it completely. When I had signed up for the Orono Adult Education Program I needed a laptop to use, I was able to get one to use while I am in school to get my High School Diploma. When I needed help Rebecca Cross and Jessica Archer were there at the school, Zoom, or Google Meet up when I was in need of extra help. The school was also able to lend me a Hotspot to use when I am not home to do my school work. Without this help I would not be able to get my assignments done.

I came to the Orono Adult Education Program for a few reasons. One reason is I wanted to show not only my children but myself that it is ever too late to accomplish a life goal. I wanted to be able to get my high school diploma to go to college for Culinary and Pastry Arts. I have been able to study in the high school academic classes, such as; Math, Science, English, Arts, History and other classes that are part of getting my diploma. When joining RSU26 I have started to notice the little things in life seem to even go better. I am now able to hold my head high and have that accomplishment that I have been waiting for myself and my family. After I graduate from RSU26, I am going to leap forward and get the chance to go to college. Get my degree in my lifelong dream career as a Culinary and Pastry Chef.

As you can see, Maine Adult Education is important to me. Without adult education, I would not have been able to graduate with my High School Diploma. Adult Education programs need to be fully funded to be able to help other learners with needs like mine.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,
Amanda Plasse-Bell
Student
a.plassebell713@gmail.com
207-479-6723