

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1443
An Act to Establish a Recall Process for Public School Board Members

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and distinguished members of the Committee on State and Local Government, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding LD 1443.

I will begin my testimony today by highlighting a recent unfortunate series of events that occurred in Regional School Unit 21, which includes the towns of Arundel, Kennebunk, and Kennebunkport. One of the Directors of RSU 21 was recently caught posting racist and homophobic content on his Twitter page. The posts were truly shocking, especially considering the position this director held on the school board.

Shortly after the community became aware of these posts, a recall petition was taken out in order to start the process of ousting this problematic director from the RSU 21 School Board. The director resigned shortly after when it became apparent that there was abundant community support for the recall.

As the RSU 21 Board Member in question was elected by Arundel residents, the recall process is governed by the Arundel Town Charter, which requires signatures equal to at least ten percent of the votes cast in the last Gubernatorial election. I fear that if the state were to raise this threshold to 25%, as is proposed in this bill, it would be immensely difficult to recall school board members. I posit that the School Board member I refer to above may not have resigned had the threshold for recall been so difficult to reach.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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