

Jasmine Knapp
Old Town
LD 34

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Monday February 24, 2025

To: The Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

From: Jasmine Knapp

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 34, An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers

My name is Jasmine Knapp and I am an Elementary Education student at the University of Maine. I am concerned about the low minimum wage for teachers in the state. I plan to teach 1st-4th grade students once I graduate in 2026 and an increase to the minimum wage would help me to stay and teach in Maine. Teacher shortages are increasing every year and one of the main reasons is due to the lack of funding in schools regarding wages and budgets. I believe that an increase in the minimum wage would encourage more qualified teachers to stay in Maine to teach. Fourth and Eighth-Grade Maine students have scored lower than they have in three decades on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which assesses students on reading and math skills. It is clear that Maine needs more certified and passionate teachers in its classrooms and the teachers that are currently serving our state's youth deserve to be fairly compensated for their dedication. I urge you to vote in support of LD 34 to strengthen the quality of Maine's education.

Respectfully submitted,
Jasmine Knapp