

Christina McDonald
Waterville
LD 360

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education,

I am writing to voice my strong support for LD 360, which seeks to address the critical issue of literacy and ensure that every Maine student has access to the resources they need to succeed, particularly through the distribution of free books. As a principal at Lillian P Hussey Elementary, I have witnessed firsthand the impact that access to reading materials can have on student achievement, and I believe this bill is a vital step toward improving literacy across our state.

Firstly, LD 360 proposes providing free books to students, which is essential because access to reading materials is a fundamental part of developing strong literacy skills. Research shows that students who have more books at home perform better academically and are more likely to develop a lifelong passion for reading. This bill will help bridge the gap for students who may not have access to books, giving them the opportunity to develop the critical skills they need to succeed.

Secondly, the bill's focus on ensuring that every student receives a book will not only improve literacy but also foster a sense of ownership and pride in learning. As a principal, I've seen the difference that having books students are excited about can make in their engagement and enthusiasm for reading. This bill will give students the opportunity to choose books that spark their interests, empowering them to take charge of their learning and develop a love for reading that will last a lifetime.

I strongly urge you to support this bill as it moves forward in the legislative process. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and for your commitment to improving education in Maine.

Sincerely,
Christina McDonald
Principal, Lillian P Hussey Elementary School
Augusta ME