



BREWER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT Brewer, Maine 04412

February 26, 2025

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

I am writing to voice my support for LD 360. Brewer Community School was fortunate enough to be a group of initial pilot schools for the Dirigo Reads program in the fall of 2019. Since that time, 532 of our first graders have benefited from this program, totaling approximately 5000 books put in the hands of kids and families here in Brewer. Our students and teachers look forward to their monthly deliveries of books, and the variety of texts that arrive in their classrooms and homes. I can only imagine the impact this has had statewide.

Research shows the impact that being read to and having access to books at home has on students. According to the World Literacy Foundation recently, "Home libraries are inextricably linked to student success and achievement." We know that reading at home prevents learning loss, increases vocabulary, and supports literacy achievement early on. Equally notable are the effects that reading aloud has on familial relationships and student social emotional health. In a world where screens are monopolizing life more and more, I am convinced that putting books in the hands of kids and families is more important than ever.

Thank you for your time and consideration of LD360.

Sincerely,

Allison Kahkonen
Elementary Principal
Brewer Community School

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Brewer Community School
LD 360

I am not able to attend, but I am hoping you will consider the attached written testimony in support of LD 360. Thank you!