

Kate Van Etten
Rangeley, Maine
LD 360

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education, I am writing to voice my support for LD 360.

Dirigo Reads is a program that our family has appreciated since my son, now a fourth-grader, first came home with his monthly book back in 2021. At that point trying to create normalcy in our home on the heels of the pandemic was not easy. However, each month, we could look forward to a surprise book that we could sit down and read together as a family and discuss. It helped my son develop the confidence to read out loud, act out the characters, and predict what might happen next.

Now, three years later, my daughter, who is a first grader, has that same advantage through the Dirigo Reads program. While our family is fortunate enough to have a collection of books, many families aren't. The reassurance that students can "build a mini-library" in their home, encouragement to read, and anticipation of the next book is the excitement I, as both a parent and educator, look forward to as well.

I am grateful for the support of this program thus far and appreciate your consideration to continue its funding as it positively impacts the lives of young readers.

Sincerely,
Kate Van Etten
Parent / RLRS Spanish Teacher
Rangeley