

TESTIMONY REGARDING L.D. 370

An Act to Raise the Minimum State Standard for Mathematics Education for a High School Diploma

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Rob Callahan, and I am a Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education (MACTE) member and Director of the Lewiston Regional Technical Center. I am testifying today on behalf of Maine's CTE Directors regarding L.D. 370. While MACTE does not take a position for or against this bill, we would like to offer the following considerations.

L.D. 370 proposes increasing the minimum state requirement for mathematics education from two years to three years as a condition for high school graduation. Maine's CTE Directors have concerns about the potential impact of this bill on Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and students' ability to access hands-on, career-focused learning. Specifically, we raise the following questions:

- **Local Control:** We believe curriculum decisions should remain within the authority of local school districts.
- **Graduation Requirements:** If this additional math requirement is enacted, what current graduation requirement might be removed to make room for it? The addition of such requirements may inhibit a student's ability to access CTE programming.
- **Existing District Standards:** Many Maine school districts already exceed the current minimum math requirement—how would this bill affect them?
- **CTE Instructional Hours:** Can we ensure that students will still receive the required 350 hours of CTE instruction without disruption?
- **Curriculum Alignment:** Previously enacted curriculum alignment efforts under L.D. 436 could be affected, potentially requiring a restart of that work.

We certainly agree that improving Maine's students' proficiency in math is a critical goal. Maine CTE has worked creatively to implement such programs as Math in CTE and Math pathways to unearth critical math skills which are required in the workforce. Maine would welcome a continuation of that creative and impactful dialog.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this matter and look forward to further discussions in future work sessions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rob Callahan

Lewiston Regional Technical Center - Director

Maine Administrators of Career & Technical Education (MACTE)

