

My name is Harper Libby. I live in Nobleboro, ME. I am a twenty year old student currently working toward my high school diploma at Lincoln Academy in Newcastle. I have Down Syndrome.

I am writing a comment about L.D.46 and how this is going to affect me. I want to go to college to learn skills so I can get a job to earn money for myself and try to live independently. I went for a visit to Saint Joseph's College in Standish. They gave me a tour of the classrooms, labs, library and the dorms. I like their nursing and business programs. I am also interested in extracurricular activities there, because they have a gym, workout room, a pool, and karaoke night. I want to learn about and work towards an independent life in my adulthood. I want to make new friends and be part of a higher learning community in Maine.

Saint Joseph's is one of the only programs in Maine and it is not really equivalent to college degree programs offered to those folks who don't have any level of intellectual disability. I really love to learn, so if there are more choices for people with intellectual disabilities to have more opportunities, that's a good thing and what I support. I urge you to consider how passing this bill to create more higher education opportunities for students like me in Maine will benefit our special citizens and in turn, our whole state!

Thank you,

Harper Libby