

Bradford Sherwood
South China
LD 471

Greetings Honorable Representatives of the Maine Legislature.

In consideration of the proposal to fund English classes for immigrants, as a business owner I consider this to be a reasonable investment in our economy and society. We all know the frustration of being on the phone with a customer service representative that cannot be easily understood because that person doesn't speak fluent English with an American dialect. Business owners often can't afford to hire employees that will require time to build the necessary skills to perform effectively. Employers want workers that present a professional engagement with customers and we do have people within our State that are eager to work but don't have the skills to communicate easily with both employers and customers. I believe that such an investment in our work is not only reasonable but smart.

You have a busy schedule so I thank you for taking the time to consider this proposal.