

Emilia Toth  
Portland  
LD 34

TO: The Honorable Senator Joseph Rafferty  
Representative Kelly Murphy  
Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee  
DATE: February 26, 2025  
RE: An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers

Good morning, Senator Rafferty and Representative Murphy,

My name is Emilia Toth. I'm a resident of Portland and a staff member with the League of Women Voters Maine. I have been closely following the bills within the 132nd legislature, and I am testifying in support of LD 34.

As a single parent, my mother raised my sister and I while working as a teacher her entire career. We had a wonderful childhood, but it was because my mother worked hard and worked extra to make sure we had enough money to live comfortably.

Teachers are extremely underpaid for the amount of work they are expected to do and the amount of preparation and experience they must bring to the job. The reason there is a constant national teacher shortage is because teachers aren't being paid enough to live off of teaching alone.

Teachers choose their careers because they are passionate about teaching. I can't think of better people to be in charge of the education of younger generations. We need to make sure that teaching is a viable career.

I am glad that our state lawmakers have stepped up to introduce a state bill that would assure fair and increased pay for educators. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 34.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Emilia Toth  
Portland, ME  
February 26, 2025