

Kelsie Gagnon  
Phippsburg  
LD 696

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee of Education and Cultural Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to the committee. My name is Kelsie Gagnon and I am a resident of Phippsburg. I am here on behalf of myself in support of LD696.

As a previous team member who worked with Dr. Ross to build the Maine Teacher Residency from the ground up, I have seen the wonders that this program can provide.

Through this program, Maine schools are able to bolster the number of professionally certified teachers that support student's learning and future ambitions. As a current public school teacher myself, I am keenly aware of how important it is our teachers are educated, prepared, and qualified to be in the spaces they occupy.

Further, a multi-faceted education provided by teachers with which students form connections is the bedrock of our society. Supporting LD696 allows the MTR to continue supporting new teachers, mentor teachers, and districts as a whole. As teacher shortages grow, let us not leave behind those who are striving to continue working in our schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD696. Thank you!