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LD 220

I am writing in general support of LD 220, An Act to Establish the Hope and Inclusion Scholarship Program. I would however offer a few amendments for consideration:

- 1) Require that a Qualified School be physically located in Maine.
- 2) Exclude from use of Hope Program funds the use for air transportation. In other words, the use of Hope funds toward public transportation will be limited to public ground transportation.
- 3) Add that Hope Program funds may be used for student breakfast and lunch expenses that are incurred during school attendance days only.
- 4) To be clear that any subsidies that an SAU receives for breakfast and lunch programs can be reduced by the State to the SAU and are funds that the SAU must contribute towards the Hope Program, for use for the above-described breakfast and lunch expenses.
- 5) To be clear that any subsidies that a school administrative unit receives related to school construction, bus allocation, approved leases or debt service costs, are not reduced by the State to the SAU and are not funds that the SAU has to contribute towards the Hope Program.
- 6) To be clear that any Additional Local Municipal Contributions (being funds that exceed the State required local municipal contribution) that a municipality makes to a SAU are not funds that the SAU has to contribute towards the Hope Program.
- 7) To be clear that any subsidies that an SAU receives for teacher retirement are not reduced by the State to the SAU and are not funds that the SAU has to contribute towards the Hope Program.