

Lisa Blier
RSU5
LD 470

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and other members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Lisa Blier and I am here today to testify in support of LD 470: An Act to Require School Administrative Units to Adopt Mentoring Programs for Teachers and to Improve Existing Programs.

I have been a teacher for over 25 years, including the past 14 years at Freeport High School. As both a seasoned educator and a teacher mentor, I have seen firsthand the immense value of mentorship in our profession. Teaching is a demanding job, especially for first-year teachers. To ensure the success of both new educators and their students, strong mentorship programs are essential.

New teachers must navigate many challenges, from developing effective and engaging instruction to setting professional goals and managing a classroom. A mentor provides crucial support, feedback, and guidance throughout this journey. I have personally helped new teachers address student behavioral challenges, understand school policies, and learn how to effectively use our grading platform.

This bill is an important step toward strengthening existing mentoring programs and expanding them statewide. By investing in mentorship, we invest in the success and retention of our educators, ultimately benefiting our students.

I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have about my experience as a teacher mentor.

Thank you for your time and support.

Lisa Blier