

**GORHAM SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

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Senator Joseph Rafferty, Chair  
Representative Kelly Murphy, Chair  
Joint Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Re: Opposition to LD 420**

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing today in opposition to LD 420, "An Act to Fund the Carlton Project to Provide Additional Access to a Nontraditional Secondary School".

If approved, funding to support this nontraditional school would reduce available funds to support our public schools. This, at a time when our public schools are struggling to provide quality education programs to our students – all our students.

Maine has a strong core of nontraditional secondary schools. I see no evidence to suggest that we need to add to that cadre and as a result reduce funding for public schools. The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences is just one example of a nontraditional secondary school that already exists and is publicly funded as a charter school. This school is a residential school and can serve students from across the state. It is also beholden to the same rules and requirements as regular public schools.

I urge you to **Vote NO on LD 420**. Thank you for considering my views. I am happy to be a resource to you on this important topic. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Superintendent of Schools  
Gorham School Department