

*Nicole Chan, Ellsworth Community School District, President*  
*Jon Doty, RSU #34, President-Elect*  
*Jennifer Nickerson, MSAD 22, Treasurer*  
*Joanne Dowd, Kittery School District, Secretary*  
*Debra McIntyre, Executive Director*

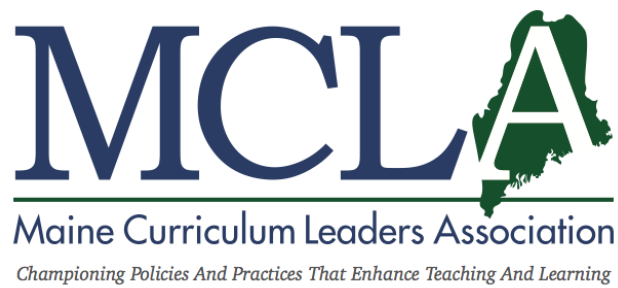
**Testimony of Debra McIntyre, Executive Director, on behalf of the members of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association, testifying in support of LD 81 An Act to Foster Innovation in Maine Schools by Updating the Requirements of School Innovation Waivers.**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Debra McIntyre, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association. On behalf of the members of MCLA, I am testifying in support of LD 81 An Act to Foster Innovation in Maine Schools by Updating the Requirements of School Innovation Waivers.

The Maine Curriculum Leaders Association represents curriculum leaders, administrators, and educators who are committed to promoting high-quality education for all students. We believe that fostering innovation within our schools is crucial to improving educational outcomes and preparing students for a rapidly changing world. This important legislation provides a critical opportunity for Maine's school districts to explore and implement innovative educational approaches that may better serve students, teachers, and local communities.

LD 81 offers an updated framework for school districts to apply for innovation waivers, allowing them the flexibility to try new and creative educational methods. These waivers are especially important in a time when educational needs and expectations are evolving. By empowering districts to think outside the box, this bill encourages them to develop solutions tailored to the unique needs of their communities.

LD 81 helps to break down barriers that may prevent districts from exploring promising innovations. Whether it's experimenting with personalized learning, incorporating new technology tools, revising school schedules to better meet the needs of students, or implementing alternative assessment methods, this bill opens the door for schools to take risks and try new strategies.



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The suggested revisions to LD 81 provide a greater flexibility for districts, eliminating restrictions while also focusing on the professional learning needed to implement change.

Innovation requires the willingness to experiment and learn from both successes and setbacks. By providing a structured process for waivers, LD 81 ensures that districts can pursue innovative practices in a thoughtful and accountable manner. Furthermore, the legislation outlines a process that will allow districts to report on the outcomes of their innovations, which will provide valuable data and insights that can benefit all Maine schools in the future.

In conclusion, the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association strongly supports LD 81, An Act to Foster Innovation in Maine Schools by Updating the Requirements of School Innovation Waivers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.