

Joseph Hufnagel
The Landing Place/Homeworthy, 61 Park Street, Rockland, ME, 04841
LD 628

LD 628 An Act Regarding Eligibility to Apply for a Department of Education
Diploma

I, Joseph Hufnagel, respectfully ask that our Maine DOE Diploma continue to serve students beyond 2026, which is when the current statute is set to expire.

Please note that I am not asking for the process to change, and that I recognize that this process still needs to go through the students' current educational program and be approved through the Maine Dept of Education.

I am simply advocating for our Maine DOE Diploma to continue to serve students who experience significant interruptions in their educational experience. For example, I am referring to students who may have had to relocate during an academic year due to circumstances beyond their control, such as economic instability and/or unstable housing. I am also referring to students who may have missed a substantial amount of school as a result of a family member or family members experiencing significant hardship, such as: intensive mental health concerns and psychiatric challenges, substance use disorders, incarceration, or some other unexpected trauma-causing occurrence.

For these reasons and more, I ask that you please support a Maine DOE Diploma that continues to serve students who incur a significant disruption or multiple disruptions during their educational experiences.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Joseph Hufnagel
Vice Chair, State Advisory Committee on Truancy, Dropout, and Alternative
Education
Director of The Landing Place/Youth Services for Homeworthy
61 - Park Street, Rockland, Maine
(207) 691-6240/jhufnagel@homeworthy.org