

March 27, 2025

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 607

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

I write today in strong opposition to LD 607. This bill has the potential to destabilize public school districts in myriad ways, including:

Diminishing the relationship between school leaders and families. In districts such as Falmouth, that are deemed to be “more attractive” for any number of reasons, superintendents are already inundated each year with requests to enroll non-resident students. Currently, superintendents work with the families and the superintendent in the student’s home district to determine what is in the best interest of the child. If LD 607 were to pass, those personal conversations and professional considerations would no longer matter. A close examination of student needs would be taken out of the equation.

Negatively impact programming and experiences for students in sending schools. As enrollment declines, schools necessarily make decisions to narrow curriculum, and limit the number of programs and experiences offered to students. In this context, possible implications include reduced outcomes/performance, potential increase in drop-out rates, and students who do not get their needs met by their school.

Negatively impact programming and experiences for students in receiving schools. This bill would cause harm to students in receiving districts due to an increase in class sizes and a strain on resources. What “capacity” means is highly dependent on student demographics, interests, and a range of district challenges that go far beyond a mere teacher: student ratio or class size.

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Opposition to LD 607, cont'd

Penalize communities that receive limited state funding and invest significantly in their schools.

To say the receiving school will be compensated through the State's EPS funding mechanism is simply untrue. Many districts that are deemed highly attractive – like ours in Falmouth – receive a minimal amount of funding from the State to support their high-performing schools.

**Falmouth taxpayers cover more than 75% of the school budget.**

Asking the taxpayers of communities like Falmouth, many of whom are living on fixed incomes, to invest considerable funds in educating students who live in the town is challenging enough. To expect that they will take on additional expenses simply because students want to come to their schools from other communities is simply not fair. It could easily create a backlash against school expenses and lead to budget no-votes, likely resulting in a further strain on resources.

This bill is unfair to students, unfair to taxpayers, and dismissive of the personal nature of Maine education. I urge you to soundly defeat LD 607.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'gretchen a. McNulty', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gretchen A. McNulty  
Superintendent of Schools  
Falmouth Public Schools