

Warren Graver
Freeport
LD 802

Testimony in Support of ME LD802

Dear 132nd Legislature:

My testimony was presented at the March 27th hearing, and I using this forum to formalize my testimony. I am writing to express my strong support for ME LD802, which seeks to establish a mentorship program for youth impacted by the foster care system. As these young individuals navigate the many challenges of growing up without consistent family support, mentorship provides them with the stability, guidance, and encouragement they need to thrive. Research has consistently shown that mentorship leads to better educational outcomes, increased self-confidence, and stronger pathways to employment. By connecting foster youth with caring, dedicated mentors, this bill has the potential to break cycles of instability and empower young people to reach their full potential.

This legislation is not just an investment in mentorship—it is an investment in the future of our communities and the State of Maine. Foster youth face disproportionately high risks of homelessness, unemployment, and involvement in the criminal justice system. Providing them with strong role models and supportive relationships can change the trajectory of their lives, giving them the skills and networks they need to succeed. I urge you to pass ME LD802 and demonstrate our collective commitment to ensuring that every young person, regardless of their background, has access to the support they deserve.

Sincerely,
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