

Lisa Savage
Solon
LD 1294

I am writing as a constituent and retired educator in central Maine urging an "ought to pass" vote on LD 1294. Poverty is the leading cause of poor educational outcomes and a large percentage of children in Maine are growing up in poverty. Once a first grader told us the family would soon move because they were sleeping in an unheated trailer and it was getting too cold. Gently supporting him to focus on learning to read and write was my job. But how realistic is that, really? When children are worried about eviction, about empty food cupboards at home, about parents who have health problems but no care, etc. they are not ready to learn. We need to support low income families in every way feasible so that their kids have a chance to benefit from acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills.