



TESTIMONY OF ALICIA REA, ESQ.
LD 660 – Ought Not to Pass

**An Act to Provide Transparency and Public Access to
Public School Curricula**

Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs
April 2, 2025

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Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, greetings. My name is Alicia Rea, and I am a policy fellow at the ACLU of Maine, a statewide organization committed to advancing and preserving civil liberties guaranteed by the Maine and U.S. Constitutions. On behalf of our members, I urge you to oppose LD 660.

Government bodies, including schools, should always strive for transparency. The ACLU strongly supports good-faith efforts to make public education as transparent as possible to parents and communities. And, in the context of curriculum, transparency is already the norm: parents can typically access the curriculum that public schools are teaching to their children by requesting this information, at the local level.

So-called “curriculum transparency” bills, introduced in the Maine Legislature and across the nation aim, are not really about transparency at all: they are efforts to micromanage what can be discussed and taught in schools. This type of legislation has a chilling effect on educators’ ability to teach and engage with their students in a meaningful way.

If enacted, LD 660 would, among other things, require that teachers can only teach curriculum that is specifically approved by a school board, “without change.” It also prohibits any classroom learning based on sex, race, gender, religion, disability, income, psychological or social-emotional data, or trauma-based care.

This is likely to have a chilling effect on teachers and students’ willingness to engage in difficult conversations. School is where kids are best set up to learn about how to engage in difficult topics, how to disagree with one another, and what it means to be a citizen in a diverse world. We should not impede this learning, and students’ First Amendment rights, by deterring teachers from teaching certain topics.



After the pandemic years of remote-schooling, and the difficulties so many students are having catching up, the legislature should focus its resources on helping students learn, not on limiting engagement on what topics schools can teach.

Please vote that LD 660 ought not to pass.