

Distinguished Members of the Education And Cultural Affairs Committee,

My Name is Sam Scogin - I am an educator currently teaching at Lewiston High School. I am writing in support of passage of LD 1069, an An Act to Require Personal Finance to Be Taught as a Separate Course in Order for a Student to Obtain a High School Diploma.

I previously submitted testimony to the committee, but I'm not sure if it was submitted properly and I am deeply passionate about the passage of this bill. I have been employed as a teacher for twelve years and have taught some version of personal finance to students for the vast majority of my career.

Personal finance is a critical need for the students in our state. When I first began incorporating elements of personal finance education in to my other classes at LHS, I was shocked by the career goals and expectations of students. I routinely have students who expect to be able to graduate high school and become a professional athlete, but have not played competitive sports while in school. They expect to be able to be successful on youtube or other platforms as influencers or creators, but when asked what content they plan on creating or what skills or background they have making or editing videos I get blank stares.

High school juniors and seniors all over our state have not stopped to consider what their next steps in life will be. That is the norm, not some exception for a handful of students here or there.

Students who are on the cusp of joining the workforce and adulthood have no idea what the difference is between a debit card or credit card. They have no idea how to file taxes. They do not know how to manage basic bills or have a general sense of what the basics required to live cost.

These are the basics. Our students have no idea how to compare compensation and benefits packages, weigh the impact on personal lives from what career path they take, or begin to comprehend savings for retirement. A half credit, semester long course needs to be required so our students are prepared for the realities that face them when they leave high school.

Looking back at my own journey from high school to early adulthood, I made many mistakes that have wound up costing me dearly in both time and money. I wish I had the opportunity to have taken a similar course and been given the time and space to carefully consider my career choices and learn about building wealth.

I appreciate the consideration that this bill is getting and welcome any questions. I can be reached at [sscogin@gmail.com](mailto:sscogin@gmail.com).

Thank you,

-Sam Scogin