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LD 1404

I am writing in support of LD 1404 and in support of continued funding of Maine public and school libraries. As a high school librarian and library patron myself, I see firsthand, every day, how libraries positively impact the lives of Mainers. From print materials that support curricula and personal development, to the powerful academic resources available through the Digital Maine Library, libraries in Maine provide equitable access to all Maine students. Beyond the concrete and tangible resources that Maine school and public libraries offer, they also provide a rare space for young people - all are welcome at the library, regardless of background or beliefs. It is not hyperbole to suggest that libraries, providing equitable access to information and operating as shared community spaces, are a cornerstone of democracy. This bill is an important step towards ensuring that libraries continue to be a vital resource for all Mainers.