

## **In support of LD 1404: Resolve, to Create a Working Group on the Status of School Libraries and on Public Libraries in Maine**

Submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

April 9, 2025 at 10:00 am

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Honorable Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Michelle DeBlois, and I am a resident of Greene, Maine. I am a public librarian and the CEO and Founder of ReMo, a Maine edtech company empowering educators and students around independent reading. I am testifying in strong support of LD 1404, which seeks to create a working group to study the needs of Maine's school and public libraries. This group will study library partnerships, facility conditions, access to technology, and the diversity of library collections—critical steps toward strengthening our libraries statewide.

Through Maine's public and school libraries, I have been able to visit state parks, view musical performances, connect with famous authors, participate in book clubs, and have access to reading materials. I have had a space to hold meetings for my business and volunteer my time and expertise.

LD 1404 offers the opportunity to invest in literacy, community, and Maine's future. I have seen firsthand the impact that public and school libraries have on the lives of everyone in our community. From providing equitable access to materials (not just books!), to serving as community centers during crisis and celebrations, to providing training and tools for economic development, and standing as a welcoming place for people to gather and learn. Libraries are the backbone of our communities and provide a space for experts and novices alike to come together to create a stronger, more resilient, thriving Maine community.

I urge the members of this committee to support LD 1404. This study is essential to understanding the needs of Maine's libraries and planning for their future.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I am willing to answer any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,  
Michelle DeBlois

**CEO & Founder of ReMo**

PO Box 1763, Lewiston, ME, 04241

**207.576.2922**

<https://ReMo.app>

Michelle DeBlois  
Greene  
LD 1404

Please see the attached .pdf of my testimony.