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LD 1404

I am writing today in support of LD 1404. I believe a group studying Maine's libraries and their impact on the state would be very useful. Libraries across the state work hard to provide their patrons with books and media they enjoy, help them find useful and accurate information, and bridge the digital divide. As a children's librarian myself, nothing brings me greater joy than connecting a child with a book they love. I've also helped new Mainers apply for jobs, helped older patrons learn how to use their iPhone and get pictures off their device and into the cloud, and been the first person a teen wanted to tell about making National Honor Society. Many libraries like mine are cooling and heating centers for their communities, creating safe spaces for people to go due to weather-related problems. When people don't know where to go or who will help them with a problem, they often turn to libraries first. I think a group like the one proposed would highlight all the good work libraries across the state are doing, and where they might need more support in order to thrive. Thank you.