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LD 1395

As Maine citizen, a school librarian, parent, and public educator of 25 years, I am writing this testimony that LD 1395 ought not to pass.

Section 2, 20-A MRSA of the bill includes broad subjective language, such as "obscene" that has the potential to censor access to information about the human body, public health. The online databases that we use with students are vetted to contain information that is developmentally appropriate for our students. Databases are not open-internet sources, but carefully curated content. In addition, any school district receiving e-rate funding has an extra layer of filtering to comply with CIPA regulation. The vetted databases and filters protect students from adult content. Section 2 of this bill is not solving a problem that actually exists.

If the bill were simply about the content of Section 3, it would be fine; however, the removal of "public school" from Section 1, and the language of Section 2, is an attempt to potentially censor public school curricula and libraries.

For these reasons, LD 1395 ought not to pass.