

To: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Re: LD 1395 An Act Regarding Human Trafficking Prevention Instruction and Dissemination of and Access to Obscene Material in Schools
Date: April 15, 2025

This testimony is in OPPOSITION to LD 1395 An Act Regarding Human Trafficking Prevention Instruction and Dissemination of and Access to Obscene Material in Schools.

This legislation is unnecessary, as obscene material and child pornography are not found within K-12 databases. The databases commonly purchased and used by K-12 public schools are done so with specific audiences in mind. Elementary, Middle School, and High School versions of databases are offered to steer students in a direction that is relevant to their age group. Information contained within those databases has been professionally curated and is standards-aligned. Databases work in compliance with CIPA and their publishers follow existing federal and state laws that prohibit the distribution of obscene material.

I find myself confused as to why these two items are being presented in one bill. Allowing public schools to teach about “recognizing signs of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of a minor and human trafficking” and provide training to staff regarding those same topics is a separate issue from database usage in Maine schools.

Furthermore, my district’s JLF policy states that we as a staff are to be given sexual abuse prevention training every four years. It also states that students in public pre-school through grade 5 will receive child sexual abuse prevention education curriculum programs. This is in accordance with Maine statute 20-A MRS §254, sub-§18. LD 1395 is written as though this is something not currently allowed. What exactly is this bill seeking to change in that area?

Relatedly, if it is the goal of the Maine legislature to educate children in the areas of sexual abuse, then having access to vetted, reliable resources that discuss these topics should be a priority. Sending students out into the wide world of the internet to find information in this area can provide a wide variety of results. Directing students to these age-relevant databases to provide them with accurate information would be the safer option.

At best, this legislation is disingenuous. It is trying to solve an obscene materials problem that simply does not exist. I urge you to vote “ought not to pass.”

Thank you for your time,

Kerrie Lattari, MLIS
Library Media Specialist