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**Testimony of Debra McIntyre, Executive Director, on behalf of the members of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association, testifying in opposition to LD 1357 An Act to Create Alternative Pathways for Certification or Endorsement of Industrial Arts Teachers.**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Debra McIntyre, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association. On behalf of the members of MCLA, I offer testimony in opposition to LD 1357 An Act to Create Alternative Pathways for Certification or Endorsement of Industrial Arts Teachers.

We understand and share the concerns around the need to address educator shortages and to ensure access to high-quality instruction in career and technical education, including industrial arts. However, LD 1357 seeks to address this issue in a way that bypasses the existing, comprehensive process for credentialing in Maine.

That process lives in Chapter 115, which outlines the certification and endorsement requirements for all certified educational staff in the state. Importantly, Chapter 115 is currently undergoing revision through the Maine State Board of Education, which has been working diligently and collaboratively with a broad range of stakeholders—including school leaders, content experts, and MDOE — to improve Maine’s credentialing system.

Creating a standalone legislative pathway for a specific endorsement undermines the integrity and consistency of this statewide process. We believe that if there are concerns or ideas regarding how best to certify industrial arts teachers, those concerns should be brought forward through the existing Chapter 115 review and revision process—not through piecemeal legislation.

MCLA urges the Committee to wait until the State Board’s work on Chapter 115 is completed. If the final recommendations do not adequately address this issue, there will still be an opportunity to revisit the topic with more clarity and in the appropriate context.

In short: LD 1357 is premature. We respectfully ask the Committee to let this work play out and to incorporate any needed changes to certification pathways within the established framework of Chapter 115.