



**Parents' Rights in Education Maine
Testimony of Allen Sarvinas
LD 1627, An Act Regarding Workforce Development,
Education Reform and Talent Retention
Ought to Pass
April 24, 2025**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I am Allen Sarvinas, Maine state director of Parents' Rights in Education. I am testifying on behalf of Maine families who believe parents—not the government—are the primary stakeholders in their children's upbringing, education, and well-being. We strongly urge the committee to vote ought to pass in regards to LD 1627, "An Act Regarding Workforce Development, Education Reform and Talent Retention." This legislation is not only timely—it is essential to addressing the economic, educational, and demographic challenges facing Maine.

Maine is at a crossroads. Our state's aging population, shrinking workforce, and persistent brain drain require bold, forward-thinking solutions. LD 1627 delivers those solutions. By integrating internships into high school graduation requirements and embedding career exploration throughout middle and high school curricula, this bill ensures that students graduate not only with diplomas, but with direction.

LD 1627 balances academic achievement with real-world readiness. It recognizes that the path to a prosperous life doesn't always go through a four-year college. It values apprenticeships, technical training, and meaningful employment—all of which deserve equal footing in our education system.

This bill also wisely incentivizes schools and employers to collaborate. It empowers local businesses to invest in our youth through tax credits and co-designed training programs. It bridges the divide between the classroom and the workforce—creating pipelines that benefit both students and Maine's economy.

Finally, LD 1627 doesn't throw money at the problem; it demands measurable outcomes, encourages efficiency, and focuses resources where they have the greatest impact—on students, families, and communities.

This is how we build a resilient, prepared, and rooted generation of Mainers. I urge this committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1627 and lead the way in transforming Maine's educational system into a launchpad for opportunity.

Allen Sarvinas
Topsham
LD 1627

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