

John Holdridge
Cape Elizabeth
LD 1327

Dear Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

The State of Maine is facing a teacher shortage and I believe this is in large part due to the economics of the profession, meaning that it is expensive to gain certification and the potential for earning in the early years is a negative match to the cost.

LD 1327, An Act to Improve and Expand Student Teaching Opportunities in Maine by Compensating Student Teachers is a strong step in the right direction as it compensates future teachers in their final stage of certification as student teachers and future teachers in Maine.

I ask you to consider amending this act by removing the requirement to reimburse the state if a student teacher from a Maine teacher prep program receives a job at a private school in Maine.

I have been employed at both public and private schools in Maine and know that teachers often move between the two. Maine needs teachers who can educate our students at all levels wherever they show up to learn and this bill should not be used to further the division between the two types of schools.

Regardless of a consideration of the proposed amendment above, I urge you to support LD 1327 and recommend "Ought to Pass."

Sincerely,

John Holdridge