

To: Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

From: Adrienne Singer, 69 Angell Ave., Apt 2m South Portland, 04106, React Behavioral Health and Nature Based Education Consortium

Date: 4/24/25

RE: Testimony in support of L.D. 1543 "An Act to Establish the Green Schools Network"

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

My name is Adrienne Singer, and I am a Behavioral Health Specialist, a member of the Nature Based Education Consortium, and I live in South Portland.

I am testifying in support of L.D. 1543 "An Act to Establish the Green Schools Network" because I believe it will foster strength-based success for students, schools, and teachers.

As a Behavioral Health Specialist, I work to build everyday skills with young people with autism, disabilities and mental health disorders. Maine school systems are often strained to provide the resources to help these young people thrive. The learning styles that a Green School emphasizes, such as interdisciplinary, place-based, and project-based learning, lessen the strain on schools by equipping this community with inclusive and dynamic pathways for skill building, leadership opportunities, and community connection.

The mental health of my clients, and of Maine's students more generally, will also be supported by a Green Schools Network. By uplifting Maine's climate action plan *Maine Won't Wait*, which prioritizes climate education, a Green School will offer young people across Maine opportunities to improve core components of mental health, such as self-esteem, motivation, and connection. Consequently, young people will be healthier and more capable of helping Maine reach its climate goals.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage you to support L.D. 1543. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Singer