

DATE: April 30, 2025
TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs
FROM: Sam Warren, UMS Chief External & Governmental Affairs Officer
RE: **LD 1395, An Act Regarding Human Trafficking Prevention Instruction and Dissemination of and Access to Obscene Material in Schools**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs: I am writing to provide important information to inform your consideration of LD 1395, *An Act Regarding Human Trafficking Prevention Instruction and Dissemination of and Access to Obscene Material in Schools*.

Through the Maine School and Library Network (MSLN) and leveraging a combination of Maine Telecommunications Education Access Fund (state) and E-rate funding (federal), the University of Maine System provides Maine's PK-12 schools and public libraries with free Internet access. The network fully supports compliance with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) by providing all participants with protections through Cisco Umbrella. While a PK-12 appropriate filter is provided by default, recognizing Maine's strong tradition of local control, the Cisco Umbrella service enables schools and libraries to administer their content filtering settings directly, consistent with other applicable laws and district policies. Network participants also have the option to use an alternative solution (most commonly a local network firewall maintained by districts with dedicated IT staffing resources) to demonstrate CIPA compliance, [which must be documented](#).

LD 1395 exceeds the capabilities of the current filtering infrastructure, resulting in significant costs to Maine and the unintended consequences of censorship and privacy invasion. Specifically, current filtering through Cisco Umbrella is DNS-level, meaning it blocks entire domains or URLs (e.g., gambling sites, pornography, social media, etc.), which is consistent with CIPA and also best practice. However, Section 2 of this bill would require the filtering of specific content within otherwise allowable and appropriate sites. This requires technology that allows for the detection and blocking of individual articles, images, or videos based on their subject matter or language within widely used sites, including those typically offered at schools and libraries for academic research purposes. We estimate the subscription cost for this technology for all MSLN users would be at least \$750,000 annually. **Because UMS delivers connectivity and digital library access through MSLN, our public system would be both affected by the law and required to enforce it, with no effective tools to do so, and with potential legal or contractual consequences for noncompliance.**

We hope this additional information, which aligns with [testimony provided](#) to the Committee by Maine State Librarian Lori Fisher, who currently chairs our MSLN Board, is helpful to your understanding of the serious implications of this bill.