

Testimony in Support of LD 1764
An Act Related to Career and Technical Education Teacher Certification
Submitted to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
132nd Maine Legislature

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maine Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators (MACTE), I write to express my support for LD 1764 and to urge the Committee to vote "Ought to Pass."

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a proven driver of student success and economic opportunity. Across Maine, CTE programs deliver high-quality, hands-on education that engages students, connects them to meaningful careers, and strengthens our state's workforce. These programs not only contribute to improved graduation rates and post-secondary outcomes but also ensure that students leave high school with valuable skills and credentials sought after in today's Maine economy.

Skilled and experienced teachers are the backbone of this success. LD 1764 addresses critical barriers to CTE teacher recruitment and retention by recognizing the value of professional experience, supporting pathways for industry experts to enter the classroom, and ensuring our students have access to the high-quality instruction they deserve. In an era where many sectors are struggling to find qualified workers, it is essential that Maine support the educators who prepare our next generation of skilled professionals.

The demand for skilled labor is urgent and statewide. From health care to construction, information technology to precision manufacturing, Maine's economy depends on a workforce ready to meet the needs of today and tomorrow. CTE is central to this effort—and LD 1764 is a necessary tool to strengthen that pipeline.

MACTE views LD 1764 as a key workforce development initiative. Our students need access to impactful, industry-aligned programs, and those programs depend on having the right teachers in the right classrooms. We respectfully urge the Committee to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1764 and help advance Maine's economic future through strong, accessible, and high-quality Career and Technical Education.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Maine's students, schools, and workforce.

Sincerely,
Rob Callahan

Director - Lewiston Regional Technical Center
Member of the Maine Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators (MACTE)

