

Maine Education Policy Research Institute

Testimony of Dr. Amy Johnson, Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI)

Neither for Nor Against: L.D. 318, Resolve, Directing the Maine Education Policy Research Institute and the Maine Department of Education to Recommend Changes to the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula

Date: May 16, 2025

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

I am joining you today to speak neither for nor against L.D. 318.

The bill language requests that MEPRI conduct certain activities, most of which are a direct continuation of our work this year on the EPS formula. We would be glad to serve in that capacity if the Resolve is passed. The assigned tasks are feasible within the suggested timeframe.

In order to maximize this opportunity and to ensure that the Department has adequate time to conduct the scenarios, we propose two amendments:

1. Add as Section 1, item 1:
“G. One or more options for incorporating a student economic disadvantage factor into the method for determining the amount of state subsidy provided to each town (i.e. adjusting the local required share of the EPS cost estimate based on the proportion of economically disadvantaged resident students).”
2. Change the first two deadlines in section 1 from August 15, 2025 to August 1, 2025.

In order to conduct the work within existing resources, we would need to have a portion of our FY2026 annual research contract with the Education Committee dedicated to the Resolve.

We can be available upon request to attend the work session to discuss the proposed study.

Sincerely,

Amy Johnson

Co-Director, MEPRI