

Colleen Brown  
Whiting  
LD 1992

To the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

I am writing as a Maine taxpayer in support of LD 1992.

In many rural parts of Maine, school unions were created with the promise of saving money and improving services. For too many towns, the opposite has happened. Costs continue to rise, transportation times get longer, and local residents have less and less say over how their schools are run.

When a community is part of a school union that is not working, families feel trapped. Local voters still pay the bills, but major decisions are made far away from the people who live there. That creates frustration, financial strain, and a growing sense that no one is listening.

LD 1992 does not force any town to leave a school union. It simply gives communities a fair, legal way to evaluate their situation and decide what is best for their children and taxpayers. It requires financial analysis, public discussion, and a vote. That is how democracy should work.

As a taxpayer, I believe towns should not be locked into arrangements that are no longer financially or educationally sound. This bill restores local accountability and gives communities a voice in their own future.

I urge the committee to support LD 1992.

Thank you for considering my testimony.