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LD 2020

To the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

I am writing as a Maine resident and taxpayer in support of LD 2020.

Families across Maine know that our schools are struggling with staffing shortages, special education service gaps, and rising costs, but it is almost impossible for the public to see the full picture. Too much critical information is delayed, incomplete, or buried in state reports that do not show what is really happening in individual districts.

Parents and taxpayers cannot make informed decisions when the data is not clear, timely, or accessible. When teacher vacancies go unreported, when special education positions are unfilled, and when students are not receiving the services they are entitled to, those problems should not be hidden by vague statewide averages.

LD 2020 is about transparency and accountability. It ensures that the Department of Education provides the information communities need to understand how their schools are being staffed, funded, and supported.

You cannot fix what you cannot see. This bill gives the public and lawmakers the tools to identify problems and address them before they become crises.

I urge the committee to support LD 2020 so Maine families and taxpayers can have a clear, honest view of what is happening in our schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.