

**GORHAM SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

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Re: Support for LD 2015 (An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies)

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and honorable members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

I write in support of LD 1015, An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies. Although this bill would require a small increase in administrative duties for schools to collect and report data to the MDOE, I believe that the small amount of additional time is far outweighed by the benefit of being able to report actual data on teacher vacancies across the state vs. relaying on the mere anecdotal evidence we have now to report this crucial data to help inform policy discussions at the local, state and federal levels.

We know we have an educator workforce challenge, but to date we have not be able to put meaningful data behind this fact that would allow us to best advocate for needed changes. It is this type of data that feeds improved policy decisions by the MDOE and Legislature that will ultimately benefit our students. If we want to truly improve test scores, then a primary function of our collective efforts should be to ensure the best and most qualified individuals are hired to be our teachers. This bill allows us to take a positive step forward in doing that very thing.

I urge you to support LD 2015.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather J. Perry", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Heather J. Perry, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

