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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)

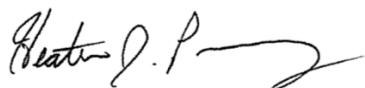
Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and honorable members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

I write in strong support of LD 2015, *An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies*. While this bill would require a modest increase in administrative responsibilities for school districts to collect and report data to the Maine Department of Education, I believe this small investment of time is far outweighed by the value of having accurate, statewide data on educator vacancies. At present, much of our understanding is based on anecdotal evidence rather than consistent, reliable information. This legislation would provide the data necessary to inform thoughtful and effective policy decisions at the local, state, and federal levels.

We know Maine is facing a significant educator workforce challenge; however, we have not yet been able to fully quantify that challenge in a way that allows us to advocate most effectively for meaningful solutions. High-quality data is essential to sound policymaking. It enables the Department and the Legislature to better understand the scope of the issue, target resources, and pursue strategies that strengthen recruitment and retention. Ultimately, these efforts directly benefit students by ensuring they have access to well-prepared, highly qualified educators in every classroom.

LD 2015 represents a practical and important step toward building the data infrastructure needed to address this challenge thoughtfully and responsibly. I respectfully urge your support of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.



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

Heather Perry
GORHAM
LD 2015

This is a corrected file. Accidentally sent in an earlier file that was a draft. Please replace.