



January 20, 2026

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Re: LD 2020 An Act to Update Department of Education Reporting Requirements

Chair Rafferty, Chair Murphy, and Distinguished Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

My name is Carrie Woodcock, and I serve as the Executive Director of Maine Parent Federation (MPF), Maine's federally funded Parent Training and Information Center and Family-to-Family Health Information Center. As both a parent of two young adults with different abilities and the leader of an organization that supports families statewide, I appreciate the opportunity to provide our written testimony.

I am testifying today against LD 2020, An Act to Update Department of Education Reporting Requirements. Our concern centers on the repeal of the current reporting requirements that provide critical data to the Legislature about Child Development Services (CDS). These data points were instrumental in revealing that CDS was unable to meet the needs of one of Maine's most vulnerable populations. They highlighted unmet needs, funding gaps, and workforce shortages—issues that would have remained less visible without transparent reporting.

While the proposed reporting structure includes information on MaineCare utilization and workforce shortages, it removes one of the most essential indicators: the number of children who are eligible for services but are not receiving them. This measure of unmet need is fundamental. It reflects how many children are not receiving their Free and Appropriate Public Education and helps determine whether the transition of 3- to 5-year-olds to public schools is actually improving access to services.

We cannot assume that all children transitioning into the public school system are having their needs met. Continued tracking of unmet need is necessary to ensure accountability and to understand whether the new system is addressing long-standing service gaps.

Maine Parent Federation would support strengthening and expanding the current reporting requirements. However, we cannot support a full repeal and replacement before the transition of 3- to 5-year-olds is complete. Once that transition is fully implemented, it will be appropriate for the state to review and update reporting requirements to align with the new system of care.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Maine's children and families.

Respectfully,  
Carrie Woodcock  
Executive Director  
Maine Parent Federation