



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I am Mathew McIntyre and I humbly serve as the Representative for Maine's House District 18, spanning portions of Penobscot, Hancock and Washington counties. I offer to you today my testimony in support of **LD2192**, "An Act to Protect Students by Ensuring Schools Have Complete Information About School Employees and Applicants for Employment".

We as legislators are charged to dispassionately render our decisions based on what we believe is in the best interest of the larger constituent base we serve, and as we are also human beings with families, friends and our own individual life experiences, occasionally the Bills we review and vote on indeed hit close to home. This for me is one of those instances, and I am honored to support Senator Rotundo in her effort to accomplish one simple thing; protect a population of whom I know we all must agree are amongst our most vulnerable; our young students.

Though I have no children of my own, I am a brother to eight siblings, and I am an uncle to several nephews and nieces. In each of these roles I have borne witness to the devastating lifelong impact of emotional or sexual trauma inflicted upon innocent and defenseless victims that came at the hands of those blackhearted individuals who were nothing but vile predators that freely walked through our society and took full advantage of their perceived positions of authority. Be it one sibling who ultimately took their own life after years of battling depression, another still living sibling who suppresses childhood trauma through reckless "self-medication", or a once beautiful young niece who is likely not long for our world because of extreme addiction; these are the realities of what unchecked evil can cause. Senator Rotundo has identified a loophole which can be exploited, and I truly believe it is within our ability to slam it shut, squarely in the face of those who would abuse it.

I have zero tolerance for those that prey on the weak and will always support efforts to defend our most vulnerable. I trust that LD2192 seeks to protect kids, and although there is no way to prevent all future harm, we can work together now to reduce it.

Please, as a committee, scrutinize and work this Bill with a resolve toward a unanimous "Ought to Pass", and as you do, remain focused on the primary objective the sponsor is striving for; to protect our young students from elusive predators that camouflage their

ill-intent under the title of “teacher”, and can too easily slip away to inflict harm elsewhere. Thank you.