

Colleen Brown  
Whiting  
LD 2212

Senator, Representative, and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee,

My name is Colleen Wright Brown. I am a special educator working with Child Development Services in Maine, and I am speaking in my personal capacity based on my experience working with children, families, and educators across our state.

I encourage the Legislature to prioritize fair wages for educators and education employees as you consider how to allocate Maine's current budget surplus.

Many educators are working second and even third jobs just to get by. Teaching and supporting students, especially young children with developmental needs, is demanding work that requires education, skill, and dedication. Educators should be able to focus their energy on the students they serve rather than worrying about how they will make ends meet.

If Maine currently has a budget surplus, using a portion of those funds to strengthen the workforce that serves Maine's students and families is a responsible investment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Colleen Brown