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Testimony of Debra McIntyre, Executive Director, on behalf of the members of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association, testifying in support of LD 436 An Act to Provide Career and Technical Education Students with Credit Toward High School Graduation for Work Completed in Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions.

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Debra McIntyre, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association. On behalf of the members of MCLA, I am testifying in support of LD 436 An Act to Provide Career and Technical Education Students with Credit Toward High School Graduation for Work Completed in Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions, with the recommended amendments to the original proposal.

We believe that students should be provided multiple pathways to demonstrate their learning. By allowing students to earn credit towards their high school graduation requirements through their participating CTE Center/Region, this increases a student's flexibility in their schedule and encourages participation in programs offered at a career and technical education center. We believe that the school districts and the CTE Center/Regions should develop these equivalency agreements to specifically outline what courses would count for what credits. These agreements would be part of the annual cooperative agreements between the school districts and the CTE Center/Regions.

This is not a small undertaking, but there are currently some school districts/CTE Center/Regions that already currently do this. If there was a three-year phase in period, we could work with the stakeholders who have successfully done this work to model a process for all districts and CTE Center/Regions.

For these reasons MCLA supports LD 436 with the suggested amendments. Thank you for your time.