

Liliana Thelander  
Bristol, Maine

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Thank you, committee members, for spending your time to review the expectations for school staff members in this bill LD 394; I know your job is not easy.

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and distinguished members of the committee, I am asking you today to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 394

My name is Liliana Thelander. I am a mom and have had three children in the school system.

I am aware that there are predators out there, that may present a risk to my children.

The text in Chapter 117 being addressed by this bill LD 394 that allows "Privileged Communications" is especially disturbing to this mom, and I have a request: Please do not prevent me from protecting my kids by allowing social workers, school counselors and administrators to keep secrets from me.

Please make it very clear that, as a parent, I am to be kept fully informed and involved in any kind of counseling efforts taking place with my children.

Some of the members on this committee are parents and or grandparents. Do you honestly believe school counselors and administrative staff should be encouraged to have your kids keep secrets from you?

Please remember that in schools, academic learning should be the priority. Academic learning should never, as suggested by the Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin, take a backseat to social and emotional learning.

Parents should not be considered the problem simply because we're asking questions. Parents are the solution. No one knows more what is best for their children than their parents!

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please vote Ought Not To Pass

Thank you,  
Liliana Thelander