



Maine Education Association

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**Testimony
In Opposition to
LD 1284 An Act to Require Personal Finance to be Taught as a Separate Course to Obtain a High School Diploma
Grace Leavitt, President, Maine Education Association
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs
May 10, 2023**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Grace Leavitt. My pronouns are she, her, hers. I am serving as President of the Maine Education Association while on leave from teaching Spanish in MSAD 51. I have over 43 years of classroom teaching experience with 20 years as a National Board Certified teacher. The MEA represents nearly 24,000 educators in our Maine system of public education in pre-K-12 schools as well as in our institutions of higher education, both the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System, along with students in teacher prep programs as well as many retired educators.

I am testifying on behalf of MEA in opposition to LD 1284 An Act to Require Personal Finance to be Taught as a Separate Course to Obtain a High School Diploma.

With few exceptions, MEA generally does not weigh in on legislation that calls for mandating curriculum. LD 1284 goes further by mandating an additional course to be added to high school diploma requirements. The course it calls for is on subject matter that is already required as it is included in the Maine Learning Results under the standards for Social Studies¹. The strand on Personal Finance and Economics outlines performance expectations for every grade level. Given the other existing high school diploma requirements and the fact that this subject matter is already part of the social studies curriculum, it seems unnecessary to require an additional course and it could prove challenging for many schools, and many students, to incorporate this into their schedules. It would likely mean that students would have to forego another option in order to add this course when the matter is already addressed in their social studies classes.

MEA encourages you to vote 'ought not to pass' on LD 1284.

I am glad to answer any questions you may have.

¹https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Maine%20Learning%20Results%20for%20Social%20Studies%20-%20Revised%202019_5.pdf

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