



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Rep. Tiffany Roberts presenting*

**LD 284, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Workforce,  
Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and  
Business*

Good afternoon, Senator Curry and esteemed colleagues on the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee. My name is Tiffany Roberts, and I represent House District 149 and the communities of North Berwick and South Berwick. I am here before you today to present *LD 284, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute*.

This past session, the committee received a glimpse of the work of the Maine Workforce, Research, Development, and Student Achievement Institute (MEWAR). The institute showcased its proficiency through an in-depth labor market analysis and an accompanying online dashboard. The potential value that MEWAR holds for both this committee and the entire state is evident. By leveraging Maine-based data and comprehensive information on workforce retention and labor force participation, legislators and public officials can make informed, data-driven policy decisions that prioritize the well-being of Maine residents.

In essence, LD 284 seeks to solidify the existence of MEWAR beyond its current pilot program phase, removing the sunset date and incorporating it into the statute under the University of Maine. This proposal does not entail a request for additional fiscal allocation at present. However, I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits and potential budgetary implications as we navigate future financial planning.

Thank you for considering the significance of LD 284 in advancing data-driven and impactful policy decisions for the state of Maine. I would be happy to answer any questions.