



Maine Curriculum Leaders Association

*Empowering Maine's Educators to Provide Quality Learning*

*Nicole Chan, Ellsworth Community School District, President*

*Jennifer Nickerson, MSAD 22, Treasurer*

*Joanne Dowd, Kittery School District, Secretary*

*Debra McIntyre, Executive Director*

**Testimony of Debra McIntyre, Executive Director, on behalf of the members of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association, testifying in support of LD 2131 An Act to Support Extended Learning Opportunities**

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 2131 An Act to Support Extended Learning Opportunities.

From the Maine Dept. of Education website "ELOs are hands-on, credit-bearing experiences outside of the traditional classroom with an emphasis on community-based career exploration. These programs include paid work experiences, expanding educational opportunities in rural Maine, work skills development, and increasing engagement of otherwise disengaged youth." This proposed bill would not require school districts to offer extended learning opportunities but does allow this additional option as a pathway for earning credits towards graduation. "Elementary and secondary schools shall provide students with opportunities for learning in multiple pathways that **may** include the following: - with "may" being the key word in the existing statute. Extended learning opportunities are currently offered in many school districts, with students actively engaged in exploring a possible career path for their future. We believe in offering as many opportunities for our students as possible and believe that the work that is currently being done, will only expand these experiences for students,

For these reasons MCLA supports LD 2131. Thank you for your time.