



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 neither for nor against LD 2182 A Resolve Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction.

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 105 school districts across the state represented by our membership, MCLA, I am testifying neither for nor against LD 2182 A Resolve Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction.

MCLA recognizes MDOE is required to review content area standards on a five-year rotating schedule. We also recognize the amount of work this requires and are always looking to be partners in this work. The members of MCLA recommended that the Maine Social Studies and Science Standards be revised only to fine tune the standards that exist in the current 2019 documents. The field was only just beginning to dig into these standards and develop aligned curricula documents when the pandemic occurred. We know that many districts will need to pause this work and revamp their curriculum due to some of the proposed changes. If the current proposed revisions are adopted, we hope that there will be ample tools (i.e. Crosswalks), resources and professional learning opportunities for the field. We know that successful implementation requires a thoughtful and purposeful plan to ensure student achievement in attaining identified standards.

MCLA is in favor of the work that has taken place to ensure similar formatting of the standards documents regardless of content area. This standardization is so important for curriculum leaders and elementary school teachers, especially, as they are responsible for all content areas. We are also in favor of the additional clarity (especially in financial literacy) and for examples provided in both Science and Social Studies. However, we feel that there are many changes to the Social Studies Standards that will take the field time and ongoing professional development to support



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implementation. The Science Standards continue to align with the NextGen Standards, as they should, but we are opposed to the inclusion of genocide in the science standards even if it is a suggested example. We believe that this is an inappropriate and forced inclusion of this topic. State statute only requires that “the history of genocide, including the Holocaust, must be included **in the review** of the content standards and performance indicators...” not that it must exist in the standards themselves.

We strongly believe that the Science Standards, as they exist, are supportive of the teaching and learning of both processes and specific scientific knowledge. In keeping with the alignment to the NextGen Science Standards, school districts will continue to be able to access research-based materials and professional development. This is so important to our continued work.

For the reasons I have stated, MCLA is neither for nor against - Thank you for your time.