

February 25, 2025

In support of LD 34, An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers

To Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

My name is Virginia Mott, and I am a recently retired teacher. I live in Lakeville, Maine.

I retired from teaching at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. For the past eight years, I was the Title I reading teacher supporting struggling readers at Lee Winn Elementary School, a small, rural school with one teacher per grade, PK - 4th grade, in MSAD #30.

After I retired, my position was advertised. However, there were no applicants. Staff assignments at the school were adjusted to provide the strongest possible support for students but, with a key position vacant, there are gaps that struggling students can't afford.

The current shortage of teachers is having a direct impact on students, and there are too few people seeking degrees in education. The shortage is going to get worse. When people with the qualities that would make them good teachers can make more money doing other work, education is likely to lose. The foundation of our society is well-educated citizens. Having too few qualified professionals to meet the educational needs of our children and youth will have lasting repercussions for everyone.

Providing a more reasonable starting pay that reflects the professional demands of being a teacher is essential. It is an important step to take to attract more people to the profession of teaching.

I urge you to support LD 34 and increase the minimum salary for teachers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virginia L. Mott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Virginia" being more legible than the last name "Mott".

Virginia L. Mott