

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and esteemed members of the joint standing Committee on education and cultural affairs my name is matteo hardy and i am a junior at cony high school here in augusta.

Today I stand in support of L.D 396 and here's why,

When I was a little freshman I would take the bus every morning to school.

I would love to say that riding a big yellow school bus was a joyous occasion but that would be a lie,

I can still remember the worst part of riding the bus each morning, it wasn't the smell, or the loud kids in the back.

It was having to be at the bus stop at 5:55 am each morning to catch my 6 am bus.

It wasn't the fact that i had to get to the bus at 6 am it was the fact that i had to wake up at 4:30 in the morning so i could take a shower, brush my teeth, get dressed, brush my hair, eat breakfast, and pack my bag and then walk to the bus stop that is 10 minutes away to sit on a bus for an hour to get to a school that is 5 minutes from my house.

Even though I was waking up at the crack of dawn I still for some reason couldn't seem to fall asleep until around 11 or 12 o'clock each night.

Meaning most nights I would get 5 and half hours of sleep. Which is far from the recommended 8 hours.

Some days I would be walking to my bus stop in pitch black before the sun had risen. Not only was it dark, it was cold and thinking back it was dangerous.

But it was what I had to do to get to school on time for my 7:10 start time.

Maine has on average one of the earliest school start times in the nation.

So i would ask you to stand up for maine kids, stand up for me, and stand up for the kids to have To catch the bus at 6 each morning.

I'm more than willing to answer any questions you might have! Thank you.