



Joseph E. Rafferty  
Senator, District 34

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

## **Testimony in Support of LD 470**

### **An Act to Require School Administrative Units To Adopt Mentoring Programs for Teachers and to Improve Existing Programs**

Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Joseph Rafferty and I proudly represent Senate District 34 which includes the communities of Berwick, North Berwick, Wells, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport.

Today I come before you seeking passage of LD 470 An Act to Require School Administrative Units To Adopt Mentoring Programs for Teachers and to Improve Existing Programs. Such a program has the potential to strengthen our School Units by creating a mentoring program designed to attract and ensure success of our new staff, specifically, conditionally certified staff and educational specialists.

A teacher holding an emergency certification must be assigned a mentor and shall participate in a mentoring program provided by the department or a school administrative unit.

In a traditional setting, a student teacher receives support through their undergraduate school working through requirements with a long history of success.

The goal of this legislation is to ensure success by partnering mentors with those candidates holding an emergency certificate or working under a waiver. Such a program shall include opportunities for all educators to share, learn and continually improve their practices in collaboration with their educational peers. The goal being ongoing professional growth for educators.

This approach requires that the Department of Education develop the program to be used by SAU's. It does allow an SAU to create their own



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program to be submitted and approved by the Department before implementation.

I know there are speakers coming behind me that may shed more light on the program. I'll do my best to answer questions as well.

Thank you for allowing me to bring this forward,

Joe Rafferty