

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and honorable members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

My name is Sandra Labonte, and I live in Searsport. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony and for your serving the State of Maine.

I stand in favor of LD1395, An Act Regarding Human Trafficking Prevention Instruction and Dissemination of and Access to Obscene Material in Schools.

I am in agreement with the wording of this bill that presents the need for strict guidelines to keep database users from being able to view or download sexually explicit material in our educational system. School administrators should be given the authority and take the responsibility to remove access to this material.

I also place utmost importance in providing human trafficking prevention instruction as stated in this bill. We all know from following the news how prevalent it is for our teens to be lured away by someone they met online. These are sexual predators who continue to harm countless numbers of our children here at home and around the world.

I want to caution every parent here and those who work with our children that it is up to us to actively monitor our children's screen time, not to control them, but to keep them safe from those with evil intent.

Let's not make it easier for our young people to be unwittingly exposed to sexual material or predators. I would think that our schools would not want this happening under their watch.

I urge you to vote **"OUGHT TO PASS"**.