



April 23, 2025

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Re: LD 1097 An Act to Provide De-escalation and Behavior Intervention Training for School Personnel

Chair Rafferty, Chair Murphy, and Distinguished Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

My name is Carrie Woodcock and I am the Executive Director for Maine Parent Federation (MPF) and the parent of two children with different abilities. MPF is Maine's federally funded Parent Training and Information Center and Family-to-Family Health Information Center. We provide training and individual assistance to families of children with different abilities (especially to underserved populations) to increase access to all systems of care and increase positive outcomes.

I am testifying today neither for nor against LD 1097 An Act to Provide De-escalation and Behavior Intervention Training for School Personnel. I fully support training and support for our administrators, teachers, and educational technicians when it comes to reducing behaviors in our schools. I do believe however that this specific bill will not do enough to move the needle for our students, especially when we are considering increasing the use of suspension, restraint, and seclusion.

The most used behavior training currently within our schools is Safety Care Training. My research shows that this training would meet the requirements within this bill. Despite our professionals in our schools currently having access to this training we are still seeing behaviors increase in our classrooms. This training is not moving the needle.

Our Department of Education provides a list of approved evidence based de-escalation training to meet Chapter 33 requirements. They include; Building Communities of Care, CALM Crisis Intervention Training, Handle with Care, The Mandt System, Non-abusive Psychological and Physical Intervention (NAPPI), Professional Crisis Management Association, Physical & Psychological Management Training, QBS:Safety Care Training Crisis Prevention Training, Right Response, Safe Crisis Management, Therapeutic

Crisis Intervention System, and Ukeru. Despite this list our schools are still engaging most with Safety Care Training.

If this bill is going to move the needle we need to move on from Safety Care Training and look at the recommendation from MEPRI to commit to providing technical assistance which consists of a structured systematic approach which provides training in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Universal Design of Learning, and behavior support and includes consistent training, coaching and infrastructure throughout the year.

Respectfully,
Carrie Woodcock