

Good morning Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Educational & Cultural Affairs committee. My name is Kris Brown and I am here from Maine Arts Academy to speak in opposition of LD1571.

I am a senior at MEAA, and after three years enrolled in this school I can say with absolute confidence that passing this bill will jeopardize the unique and invaluable opportunity that Maine Arts Academy provides to students as a free school of the arts.

I have grown to know Mr. Cox well as a visual arts major, and he is one of the people that will lose their job because of this bill. Despite lacking the certification that LD1571 will require, he is the single best teacher that I have ever had the pleasure of learning under.

With his guidance, I was not only granted early admission to the Savannah College of Art and Design for fall of 2025, but my portfolio - comprised mostly of digital art, as targeted by this bill - granted me thousands of dollars in scholarship. Losing Mr. Cox means losing the visual arts pathway almost in its entirety and although I can't speak to the other pathways I believe that it would be similar in

My future would not be nearly as bright without the staff that we will lose if this bill gets passed, and nor will the futures of countless other students in years to come.

Thank you for listening, and please take the time to reconsider.