



Neither for Nor Against: L.D. 2052, Resolve, to Study the Use of Technology in Classrooms and Study Safeguards Related to Its Use

January 22, 2026

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

We are joining you today representing the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) to speak neither for nor against L.D. 2052.

This Resolve directs MEPRI to develop and conduct a survey to gather and analyze information from school administrative units regarding policies and practices related to technology use, and to provide a report to the Committee by December 1, 2026 with “recommendations to the Department of Education and suggested legislation.” The report deadline is feasible and seems appropriate for informing discussion in the 133rd Maine legislature.

This study would occur in the context of ongoing national discourse surrounding the use of technology in PK-12 education. For example, the Fordham Institute has offered several position papers on the use of AI in education, the Brookings Institution recently completed a yearlong study on AI in education, and, on January 14, 2026, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held a hearing on the use of technology in education and the impact of technology on child development. The topic has heightened and bi-partisan interest.

Given the broad scope of topics outlined in Section 2, MEPRI would prioritize issues and identify effective approaches with stakeholder input and an eye to providing the Committee with the information most timely and useful to its work. We will review our research plan as part of our annual work plan discussions to be sure that we are aligned to the Committee’s intent and goals for the research.

If included in our annual workplan, we would not require any additional resources to conduct this work; however, it would mean less capacity for other projects, including follow-up work on current or previous studies. Based on current language, this is a medium-to-large-sized study. We have capacity for three such projects within allotted funding.

We can be available upon request to attend work sessions for further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Johnson, Co-Director
Matt Pines, Graduate Research Assistant