

State of Maine  
Department of Education

Testimony of Courtney Belolan, Director of Policy & Government Affairs

In Support of: L.D. 2109

An Act to Define "Public Education" and Clarify That A Private School Receiving Approval for Public Tuition Must be Located in the State

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Sponsored by: Representative Brennan

Date: January 29, 2026

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

My name is Courtney Belolan, and I am here today representing the Maine Department of Education (DOE) speaking in support of L.D. 2109 An Act to Define "Public Education" and Clarify That a Private School Receiving Approval for Public Tuition Must Be Located in the State.

The aim of this bill is to clarify that public tax dollars, when applied toward local public schools or toward tuition in private schools, are purchasing an educational experience that fulfills the intent of Maine Constitution article 8 and the goals of Maine legislators, as enacted in MRS Title 20-A. Further, this bill ensures that Maine taxpayer money is not diverted to out-of-state institutions.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. We will be available for the work session.