



Maine Curriculum Leaders Association

Championing Policies And Practices That Enhance Teaching And Learning

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Testimony of Courtney Belolan, Executive Director, on behalf of the members of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association, testifying in support of LD 127, Resolve, To establish a Pilot Program To Provide Grants For Professional Development in Computer Science Instruction.

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan, distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Courtney Belolan and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association. I offer testimony in support of LD 127, Resolve, To establish a Pilot Program To Provide Grants For Professional Development in Computer Science Instruction on behalf of the members of MCLA.

Computer science is an important literacy for all learners to be introduced to, and build proficiency in. A growing number of schools and districts are incorporating computer science skills, such as coding, into learning from pk through high school.. In order for learners to be successful, teachers must also build proficiency in the skills and understandings of computer science. Providing funding for professional learning rooted in best practices, as this bill does, is the most effective way to ensure high quality learning and student success while honoring the integrity of the Maine education community.

While there are potential inequities with grant-based funding of professional learning projects, we see this pilot program as an important step towards broader incorporation of computer science literacy skills here in Maine.