

*Leading the Way to Great Public Schools for Every Maine Student*

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**LD 278 “An Act to Establish a Process for the Consideration and Implementation of  
Changes to Mandated Instruction or Training for Students”**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on  
Education and Cultural Affairs  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan, and esteemed members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Grace Leavitt. I am a Spanish teacher on leave from Greely High School while serving as President of the Maine Education Association. The MEA has nearly 24,000 members—faculty and staff in our pre-K-12 public schools, our institutions of higher education, and many dedicated retired educators.

I am speaking on behalf of our members in support of LD 278: "An Act to Establish a Process for the Consideration and Implementation of Changes to Mandated Instruction or Training for Students".

Those of you who have served on this Committee before know that frequently there is a proposal that comes before you that would mandate curriculum or training in our pre-K-12 schools. Even in my time in this position, I have seen several such proposals. As well-informed as you become on each proposal, even with your knowledge of our system of Learning Results and what is taught in our schools, it can be difficult to decide which, if any, proposals to support, and which to turn down, or even which may already be a part of current curriculum. Many of the proposals are for important content that would be ideal to somehow incorporate into our system of education. But as you know all too well, nothing ever “comes off the plate”, nor does the “plate” get any larger!

Putting the process in place that LD 278 outlines would help legislators to make the best informed decisions regarding proposals for new or expanded curriculum or training, and to see how and where, if adopted, it could become part of the system of education for our students.

I encourage you to support LD 278.

Thank you for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Grace Leavitt  
President, Maine Education Association

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