



Joint Standing Committee on Education
and Cultural Affairs
Senator Matthea Daughtry, Senate Chair
Representative Michael Brennan, House Chair

RE: L.D. 144 An Act to Fund Capital Improvements to Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions

Dear Rep. Fecteau, Sen. Daughtry and Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

I am writing in support of L.D. 144- An Act to Fund Capital Improvements to Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions. As the Director of the Biddeford Regional Center of Technology, we are operating in a building that was erected in 1969. Needless to say, the need for infrastructure changes and expanding space to accommodate the increase in CTE student participation is paramount. We are not only offering training to our high school students, but we also have expanded programming to our middle school students. Our building is not only used during the day to educate high school students, we operate evening classes training adults for high wage high demand fields in the evenings and weekends.

It is a necessity to make capital improvements to continue to train a viable workforce. Although in the last few years there have been new CTE high schools, there remains many that are operating in the original buildings. In the last five years, with the support of the Biddeford taxpayer, we have been able to bring sections of the building up to date to meet the needs of the 21st Century learner. However, our shop and classroom areas need critical improvement and the passage of this bill would make a significant impact to complete our capital improvements. The pandemic has once again highlighted this issue. With the directive of maintaining a six foot distance, the shop classrooms cannot accommodate and results in only having 5 students at a time. If this directive continues, we will continue to operate a hybrid model. We have finally reached capacity with enrollment but because of space limitations, we are setback.

This is an extremely important bill that is timely necessary to build a viable workforce for our State. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paulette M. Bonneau, Director

Paulette Bonneau
Biddeford

Testimony is attached.
Thank you
Paulette Bonneau