



# Manufacturers Association of Maine

**Jessica L. Laliberte, Policy Relations Manager**  
**On Behalf of the Manufacturers Association of Maine**

## **In Support of**

**LD 680** *Resolve, To Reestablish the Task Force To Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System*

**March 17, 2021**

Good morning Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Jessica Laliberte. I am the policy relations manager for the Manufacturers Association of Maine. MAME represents 400 members from aerospace, metal, paper, marine/boat building, semiconductor, wood, textile, aquaculture, biotech, medical device, electronics, RF and wireless communications, plastics, composites and bioplastics, studio and food and beverage manufacturing. Our members employ 29,000 people here in Maine.

We are pleased to offer our support for **LD 680** *Resolve, To Reestablish the Task Force To Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System*.

Career and Technical Education or CTE prepares students for the future- be it college or entry into the workforce upon graduation from high school. Unlike traditional classroom settings, CTE programs work with industry. Students see the real-life connection between the skills they are learning and their application in the real world. CTE programs provide students both technical and academic skills.

Maine is the oldest state in the nation. With that distinction comes many challenges. We are facing the loss of qualified and skilled workers to retirement and few waiting in the wings to fill those roles. Today, manufacturers across the state have thousands of job vacancies with few applicants. These are good paying jobs.

We need a strong and robust CTE program that shows students there is more than one pathway to a career- Students who complete CTE have a marketable skill upon high school graduation and no debt!

The Manufacturers Association of Maine stands ready to work with the Legislature to address the needs of the industry and help guide programs that provide training and preparation for entry into our field. We would ask to have a seat on the taskforce. We thank Senator Daughtry for this proposal and urge a unanimous ought to pass report on LD 680.



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Thank you for your time and consideration. I will be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.