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Testimony of Sen. Chloe Maxmin supporting
LD 414, An Act to Create Parity between Private Schools and Public Schools
Regarding Career and Technical Education Tuition Rates
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and honorable members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

My name is Chloe Maxmin. I represent Senate District 13, which includes all of Lincoln County except for Dresden, plus Washington and Windsor—a total of twenty-seven towns. Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of LD 414, An Act to Create Parity between Private Schools and Public Schools Regarding Career and Technical Education Tuition Rates.

I had the pleasure of attending high school at Lincoln Academy in Newcastle, as many students in my district do. Lincoln Academy is a town academy, a private high school that serves students from many different backgrounds, including those whose towns participate in school choice programs. There are 11 other town academies serving students across Maine in much the same way.

As we all know, career and technical education opportunities are important in preparing students for life after high school. That's why we've invested in 27 career and technical high schools across our state. This is an educational opportunity that should be freely available to all students who are interested in pursuing it. However, current law requires private schools, but not public schools, to forfeit a portion of their funding for each student that attends a career and technical education center. The effect of this law disadvantages students at these private schools, and could result in fewer educational opportunities for these students.

This bill would update the law to meet the reality of the funding landscape for career and technical education centers. By creating parity between public and private schools, we create more equitable education opportunities for Maine students.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this legislation. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Chloe Maxmin

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