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I am writing to voice my support of LD 552. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides that parents are to be equal members of an IEP team. In Maine, that does not happen. After providing initial consent for special education services for their child, parents' role in developing an IEP is limited. After parents raise their concerns to the team, the IEP team can then do whatever the special education director decides. The parents have no recourse other than initiating a costly due process hearing. This bill would help correct that.

Also, special education services are often provided by educational technicians who do not attend IEP meetings. They often have the most detailed information about a student and should be allowed to attend IEP team meetings.