



April 9, 2021

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan and Members of the 130th Legislature's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding **LD 1072 - An Act Regarding Career and Technical Education and Memoranda of Understanding with Community Colleges**. This testimony is neither for nor against yet poses questions and suggestions should LD 1072 move to the work session table. We urge you to think about Maine's K-12 system as K-12+, a system that includes adult learners as well.

Maine Adult Education is the "on ramp" for adults with lower educational skills to get back on track. In some areas of the state, there are successful collaborative agreements between CTE Regions and/or Centers and local adult education programs that allow those programs to access CTE facilities after the regular school day. A more defined and ongoing partnership between CTE, Maine Adult Education, and Community Colleges will help adults gain skills and credentials leading to a living wage, contribute to their communities and help them be successful parents. Enhancing the partnership between Adult Education and CTE is a natural feeder program for Community Colleges and provides a chance for adults to start on that road to learning and to earning a greater wage at each place in their journey.

**If the memoranda of understandings will be put in place between Maine's CTE System and Maine's Community College System, Maine Adult Education would also like to be at the table** to ensure that adults who complete the same programs, such as Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), Clerical Skills, Culinary Arts (including Serv Safe), Customer Service Skills, Hospitality, Manufacturing, Medical Assistant, Truck Driving (CDL), Welding and more, will also be able to matriculate into a community college program with the same privileges as a K-12 student.

Maine's economic recovery after COVID-19 will depend on promoting efficient and effective educational and training pathways to all of Maine residents in need. Programs offered in CTE centers in collaboration with adult education vary across the state, but Adult Education programs--with financial support and equal agreements with community colleges--can specifically leverage cost effective, entry-level training, listed above, for adults.

In addition, adult education programs can support adults with necessary basic skills (literacy, numeracy, and technology) as well as WorkReady (needed soft skills) as they progress in a

technical training program. Adult Education programs are equipped to offer wraparound services to help adults meet success during and throughout training programs as well as College Transitions programming to ensure successful entrance into a Community College program. The programs listed above are often a first step for adults to gain the necessary skills and confidence to enter more training, find success, enter or upgrade their employment and then continue to learn at higher levels.

We urge you to include adult education in this legislation as it moves forward. Maine Adult Education hopes to promote more collaboration between adult education programs, CTE centers and Maine Community College. Thank you.

Thank you.

Shirley Wright

Shirley Wright, Executive Director

Maine Adult Education Association