



April 13, 2021

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

The Maine Library Association (MLA) would like to register support of LD 1188, An Act To Include Librarians and Career and Technical Education Teachers in the Minimum \$40,000 Salary Initiative.

We believe all librarians certified to work in Maine's schools should be covered under the existing statute. Students in high-poverty K-12 schools are [almost twice as likely](#) to graduate when the school library is staffed with a professional librarian. School librarians work with all of the students in the school and support their varied needs and interests. Highly trained professional school librarians are well-equipped to help their school communities uphold the civic standards of equitable access to educational resources (including digital), intellectual freedom, and ethical use of information.

Please support LD-1188. We are happy to provide any further information.

Thank you,

Sonya Durney, Legislative Chair of the Maine Library Association [sonya.durney@gmail.com](mailto:sonya.durney@gmail.com)

On behalf of The Maine Library Association ExecutiveBoard. [mainelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:mainelibrary@gmail.com)