



April 22, 2021

Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Maine State Legislature

100 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Good afternoon Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Distinguished Members of the Committee.

Hello, my name is Fiona Allen, I am currently a junior at Maine Ocean School

As we all have witnessed, this year has been an extraordinarily unusual one. Our world has shifted and society has adapted; including the Maine Ocean School personnel and staff. I am extremely thankful for the teachers and their flexibility with all students, and their willingness to go above and beyond. Being a part of the online program has taught me patience, of course, but more importantly independence. I have learned new communication skills, more ways to connect with peers, and being able to create a flexible schedule that works for myself. It is easy to see the great potential this school has and the leaps and bounds its teachers are willing to make to create the best program for their students. Despite setbacks during these challenging times, they, as a community, have continued to strive and grow. Myself as a student, have excelled in different categories I never knew I had talent in. From exploring the logistics of my hobby throughout my capstone project, to conducting informative chemistry labs. This school and its students deserve the time, funding, and most importantly your support as they continue their amazing hard work in the future. Other students, just like myself, have an amazing opportunity to discover through the Maine Ocean School.

In conclusion, please vote in favor of LD 1389, so that future students may also benefit from the Maine Ocean School program as I have.

Thank You,
Fiona Allen