



Maine Curriculum Leaders Association

*Championing Policies And Practices That Enhance Teaching And Learning*

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**Testimony of Courtney Belolan, Executive Director, on behalf of the members of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association, testifying in opposition to LD 1383 An Act To Limit Homework in Public Schools**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I, Courtney Belolan, the Executive Director of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association, offer testimony in opposition to LD 1383 An Act To Limit Homework in Public Schools on behalf of the members of MCLA.

MCLA opposes this bill for several reasons. First, homework is considered a part of instructional programming and all decisions related to curriculum, materials, resources, and instruction belong to local districts. Second, many districts already have policy and recommendations outlining appropriate homework expectations for different grade spans. Third, while there has been an abundance of research conducted on homework in schools at various developmental levels there little consensus around homework expectations. Instead, the research points to the need for careful consideration around the purpose of homework as well as learner motivation and engagement. Simply put, homework that the learners are interested in doing, and see the value in doing, is worthwhile. Further, data from an MCLA member survey shows that on average learners in grades pk-2 have 0 hours of expected homework per night, and learners in grades 3-5 have up to one hour of expected homework. The expected homework falls into two major categories: practice and deepening/extending learning. Decisions around when to expect homework, how much homework, and what to expect for homework are complicated and nuanced and are solidly in the hands of local schools and districts. For these reasons, MCLA opposes LD 1383.