



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.

My name is Emma Roseaily Cullen, and I am a sophomore at the Maine Ocean School.

Last March of 2020, the Maine Ocean School was ahead of the rest of the school districts by having us all switch over to being virtual. And, when we switched over we didn't miss a day and the lessons were not that different from being in-person. The teachers were available to help us during school hours.

For most of this year I did remote learning. Recently I have transitioned to become a hybrid student. Being a hybrid-student has helped me in many ways. Doing classwork that requires more hands on approach has been beneficial. Being In-person allows me to be more connected with my fellow classmates and teachers.

The Covid precautions that are put in place for the in-person students are effective and are not burdensome. I don't mind wearing a mask, and social distancing is not a problem either. We all want the pandemic to end swiftly, and for it not to carry into the next school year. The Maine Ocean School is making the best of a problematic situation caused by Covid.

I gratefully acknowledge all that the school has done for us to keep us engaged and on a strong path of learning.

This is why I support the passing of LD 1389 for keeping the Maine Ocean School open for more kids to have this learning experience.

Thank you for your time

Emma Cullen