



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 daughter is a second year student at the Maine Ocean School. She is currently thriving and more excited about school than ever. In prior years, in middle school and grade school she struggled with learning and many aspects of the social piece of a large public school.

She has gone from stating that she hates school to telling me to hurry up because she wants to get to school early to have access to teacher support prior to the 1st class. Maine Ocean School teachers are incredibly supportive and are the main reason for her change in attitude and approach to learning. They have given her skills that allow her to feel more confident and ready for new challenges.

The hands on approach has always been the best way for her to learn new concepts. And MOS is unique in that approach to learning. I honestly don't believe she would be as successful in working to improve her grades if she was in a more traditional school setting. For the first time I am hearing her speak of future educational goals. The transition has been a remarkable journey. I look forward to the next two years of seeing those increasing gains.

I urge you to consider the passage of LD 1389, An Act to Improve Maritime Education in Maine that will allow the Maine Ocean School to further develop their programs for all students with goals to secure a higher education and go on to contribute to the great state of Maine.

Sincerely yours,

Megan Cullen

Belfast, Maine