



Support for LD 1329, Establishment of Career Advancement and Navigation Initiative

World Education Services (WES) is a social enterprise dedicated to helping immigrants, refugees, and international students achieve their educational and career goals. WES evaluates international educational qualifications, supports the integration of immigrants and refugees into the workforce, and provides philanthropic funding to immigrant-serving organizations.

WES strongly supports LD 1329, which would establish a career advancement and navigation initiative in Maine.

This is a pivotal moment. Cultivating new pipelines of workers is critical in Maine—the state with the highest median age in the U.S. With its workforce rapidly reaching retirement age, Maine will need to fill 158,000 open jobs in the next five years. The state can harness this opportunity to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in its workforce.

To ensure equitable opportunities for economic mobility for all Maine residents, Maine must increase its investment in immigrant and refugee workers. LD 1329 would support the expansion of career navigation programs tailored to the 50,000 immigrants and refugees living in Maine, English language learning programs including industry-specific English language training, employer engagement initiatives, and access to occupational licensure.

WES strongly supports LD 1329 and appreciates this opportunity to submit a statement in support.