



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 Mykenzie Tripp, and I am a sophomore from Stockton Springs.

The school I went to before going to the Maine Ocean School didn't have hands-on learning, and that was very difficult for me. I had a hard time learning things without hands-on learning. I still passed my classes anyways, and I never got behind on my workload, but I never really had free time to hang out with my friends or do anything by myself. It was always school, sports practices, and games, then right back to studying at home. There was also a lot of drama at the school I went to. My freshman year was horrible within the first week, so I decided to switch to the Maine Ocean School about 2 weeks into my freshman year. It was the best choice that I made that year.

The first week or so was a little difficult because I didn't know anyone at the school, but after a month of being there, it was great. I had new friends, and the work was more engaging for me to do because it was hands-on, and even if I didn't understand something the teachers would help me until I understood how to do the work. My freshman year was probably the best year I could have had. We did so many hands-on learning activities, and we went on some field trips that I probably wouldn't have even considered visiting when I was at my old school. Even though we had to switch to virtual learning towards the end of the year, the teachers made it as easy as possible to still be able to exceed.

This year is my sophomore year and I am still able to exceed like I was last year. It is a little hard though, because of Covid. We haven't been able to do as much as we did last year, but the teachers are trying their best to still make it fun for us and still get us to where we need to be. Again it took about a month to be comfortable with Covid and my new classmates at the beginning of the school year. The teachers made it very easy for the students to be able to settle into the school year. Even though there were complications that made it hard for them.

The Maine Ocean School has made a great impact on me as well as other students. I have learned so much within almost 2 years of being here. I am extremely happy that I switched over when I did because I wouldn't have as many amazing experiences and memories. This year I have made new friends, gained an extraordinary amount of knowledge, and still have a great year with Covid. I think any student who enjoys anything about the ocean or wants new experiences should look into the Maine Ocean School.



A public magnet high school for marine science, technology, transportation, and engineering

In conclusion, please vote for LD 1389 so that other students can have the opportunity to gain new experiences and learn a lot just like I have.

Thank You, Mykenzie Tripp