



Associated Faculties of the Universities of Maine

April 27, 2021

Distinguished Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

I am writing to support LD 1391. For 18 years, I have been employed by the University of Maine and have been an active member of the MEA. I am Associate Professor of Anthropology and Native American Studies and President of the University of Maine chapter of AFUM, the faculty union.

Currently, the UMS Board of Trustees has no designated seats for working or retired public-sector educators, and Maine's educator unions have no ability to elect representatives to the UMS BOT. Since higher education is the mission of UMS, this needs to be remedied, and it will be if LD 1391 is passed.

Having educators on the UMS BOT is crucial to making it more informed about longitudinal issues impacting the quality of education and conditions on our campuses. Including public-sector educators elected by AFUM and the MEA on the BOT makes sense and adds needed perspectives and expertise to that body, especially in a time of unprecedented change at the System level.

Maine's educator unions and their members work tirelessly for UMS, and they deserve a seat at the table. UMS is an educational system, and it needs educators on its Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa K. Neuman', is written below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Lisa K. Neuman, PhD

Our Union, Our Voice

Call: 207.581.3940 • Online: afum.info