



Maine Curriculum Leaders Association

Championing Policies And Practices That Enhance Teaching And Learning

Shelly Mogul, Auburn, President
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Testimony of Courtney Belolan, Executive Director, on behalf of the members of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association, testifying in opposition to LD 1186 An Act To Require a Course Regarding the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Maine To Be Taught to High School Seniors

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I, Courtney Belolan, the Executive Director of the Maine Curriculum Leaders Association, offer testimony in opposition to LD 1186 An Act To Require a Course Regarding the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Maine To Be Taught to High School Seniors.

Decisions regarding curriculum, courses of study, programs, materials and instruction belong to local school districts. As such, MCLA opposed LD 1186. Further, the Maine Learning results include standards at multiple grade spans speaking to both the US Constitution and The Maine Constitution and this is content regularly included in local curriculum across the grade spans. According to an MCLA member poll 100% of respondents indicated that the US Constitution and The Maine Constitution are addressed in the following ways in grades 9-12: dedicated courses, dedicated units, integrated units, and special learning opportunities. Further, MCLA members also indicated that the cost of establishing a new course can vary, with 40% of respondents indicating that creating a new course would cost at least \$51,000. The cost of creating a new course, which is a local decision, also disproportionately burdens small and rural districts. For these reasons, MCLA opposes LD 1186.