

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”

Grace Leavitt, President, Maine Education Association

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

May 5th, 2021

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and esteemed members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is Grace Leavitt. I am a Spanish teacher on leave from Greely High School while serving as President of the Maine Education Association. The MEA has nearly 24,000 members—faculty and staff in our pre-K-12 public schools, our institutions of higher education, and many dedicated retired educators.

I am speaking on behalf of our members 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”.

The topics called for in this bill, the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Maine, are indeed important parts of our students’ education. That is why they are already included in the Maine Learning Results¹. In fact, these topics are included at various grade levels of the standards in developmentally appropriate ways. Thus, this legislation is simply unnecessary.

In addition, requiring another course that must be taken during the senior year, a course that would be covering topics already addressed in earlier grades, would limit the other courses that seniors might have the opportunity to take as they have more options to explore after completing other requirements.

For these reasons, MEA urges you to vote ‘ought not to pass’ on LD 1186.

Thank you for your time, and I am glad to answer any questions.

¹https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/Maine%20Learning%20Results%20for%20Social%20Studies%20%28Civics%20%26%20Government%29%20-%20Revised%202019_2.pdf

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