

## STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 23 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

PENDER MAKIN COMMISSIONER

February 9, 2022

Senator Joseph Rafferty, Co-chair Representative Michael Brennan, Co-chair Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Committee,

LD 1632 An Act To Update the Laws Regarding the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Governor Baxter School for the Deaf (MECDHH/GBSD) seeks to update and amend the provisions in Chapter 304 related to funding responsibilities, placement, technical assistance, and state and federal educational service requirements for students who are deaf or hard of hearing in Maine.

The Department has appreciated the opportunity to participate in discussions related to these proposed changes. The stakeholders involved in the work to develop this amendment represent diverse perspectives and were able to collaborate over the last year to craft a plan to provide an inclusive, site-based program equipped to deliver specialized services to meet the hearing needs of each student.

The Department looks forward to continuing to work with stakeholders and with the committee to clarify language in LD 1632.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to participating in the work session.

Sincerely,

—DocuSigned by:

Erin Frazier

Erin Frazier

**Director Special Services** 

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