



BREWER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT Brewer, Maine 04412

February 8, 2022

Re: LD 1632

Dear Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Members:

My name is Angela Moore, I am the Director of Special Education for the Brewer School Department. I am writing to you with support of LD 1632 and the rewrite of Chapter 304.

Since 2018 I have been working very closely with Karen Hopkins and the staff at the Maine Education Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH). Through our partnership, we have created a successful site based program in Brewer to ensure the many children throughout our region, with deaf and hard of hearing needs, are served in the most collaborative, effective, and cost efficient ways, and from a team of professionals who have the training and expertise necessary to guide our IEP team decisions in the interest of our student's unique needs.

As a result of Brewer's partnership with MECDHH we are able to serve many students with deaf and hard of hearing needs who reside in: Brewer, Old Town, Holden and Bucksport and provide a peer group to our students under one school roof. Without this collaboration, students who reside in more rural areas would not have consistent and reliable access to their team of specialists and they would experience isolation in the absence of their peer group who have similar hearing and learning needs. The model for a site based program as defined in Ch. 304 allows our regional districts to work together as one in support of what would otherwise be a very costly program. One student with deaf and hard of hearing needs could cost upwards of \$150,000 per year, but with the site based program model, we are able to share these resources and offer a robust, inclusive community, and quality programs for all.

In summary, while there are minor language details that can be considered for adjustment once Chapter 304 reaches worksession, I do support the concepts as defined in the bill. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information at amoore@breweredu.org or by phone at 207-989-8636. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Moore
Director of Special Education
Brewer School Department

Superintendent of Schools
261 Center Street
(207)-989-3160
(207)-989-8622 Fax

Brewer High School
79 Parkway South
(207)-989-4140
(207)-989-2657 Fax

Brewer Community School
92 Pendleton Street
(207)-404-5700
(207)-404-5730 Fax

Angela Moore
Brewer School Department
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