

Dorothy Maxwell  
Legacy Maine Teacher of the Year/Cornish, ME-Residence  
LD 1018

Dorothy A. Maxwell  
P.O. Box 646  
Cornish, ME 04020  
207-787-1478  
maxwelldorothy673@gmail.com

The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
Testimony from Dorothy A. Maxwell, Legacy Maine Teacher of the Year,  
Milken Family Foundation National Educator

In Support Of

L.D.#1018: "An Act to Increase the Membership of the State Board of Education and Review the Board's Responsibilities, Functions, and Staffing

Senator Pierce, Representative Brennan, and other distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Dorothy A. Maxwell. I am a resident of the Town of Cornish and a retired business teacher from Maine SAD #55 (Baldwin, Cornish, Hiram, Parsonsfield, and Porter). I also teach business courses and graduate level courses to potential online educators through a virtual high school ([www.vhslearning.org](http://www.vhslearning.org)). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of L.D. #1018.

My personal connection to this bill is based on my many years of teaching experience and the opportunity it affords to connect and collaborate with educators across Maine and the global community. As a legacy Maine Teacher of the Year (1994), I experienced a life-changing event that truly continues today. I traveled many miles both in Maine and beyond listening to teachers and students while hearing their many personal stories. Beyond my year of service, I was honored with a Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. I had the pleasure of attending several State Board of Education sessions where I was both a listener and participant.

This bill would provide a voice for teachers on the State Board of Education and add value to the important work of the State Board of Education. With increased teacher shortage both in recruitment and retention, there has never been a need for greater teacher voice than now. While I served my year as Maine Teacher of the Year, I was able to organize the Maine State Teacher of the Year Association to work collaboratively with the Department of Education and Cultural Affairs in promoting greater teacher recognition. Creating a position on the State Board of Education would be yet another coordinating connection to the teaching profession.

For these major reasons, I strongly urge the Committee to vote unanimously and pass L.D.#1018. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of this important issue for the future of Maine. I will gladly answer any questions.