

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Argy Nestor, I am a resident of Union and am the 1995 Maine Teacher of the Year. Thank you for the opportunity to communicate with you about my support of LD#1018.

Creating space on the state board of education for a teacher would be a gift to the Maine education system. The teacher voice in this arena would add value and the benefits certainly outweigh any cautions. In fact, the state of Maine's education system often boasts about doing what is exemplary for students. This bill provides an opportunity to do what is in the best interest of Maine's learners, PK-higher education. Who knows learners better than teachers? Maine's teacher leaders are champions at articulating a clear perspective of the day-to-day aspects of children and learning. Teacher membership on the state board of education is long overdue.

For these reasons I strongly urge the committee to vote in favor of LD#1018. Thank you for the important role you play in education in Maine.

Argy Nestor
Union
LD 1018

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