

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and distinguished members of the Joint Standing: My name is Tyler Backus and I am a resident of Oakland, Maine. I write to you today in support of LD 154, An Act Regarding Special Education Funding for So-called Minimum Receiver School Administrative Units.

My support for this bill has two caveats.

- 1) It cannot start in the fiscal year 2022-23, as that is the year that we are currently in and it would have other implications that would be hard to remedy prior to the end of the fiscal year.
- 2) Instead of 55%, the committee should amend the bill to follow PL2005, Chapter 2, Sec. D-58. This would put the special education adjustment at 100%.

The state could look at funding this as part of fiscal year 2023-24, though it would raise the state beyond 55%. Otherwise it should look to put the bill into effect for fiscal year 2024-25, so that it could be included in the 55% calculation.

This is one of a few areas that keeps the state from fully meeting their obligation of fully meeting the obligation to fully funding public education in Maine.

Thank you for your time.

Tyler Backus