

State of Maine
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Testimony of Wendy Ault, Chair of the Certification and Higher Education Committee

Neither For Nor Against: L.D. 1217
Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program for Alternative Teacher Certification

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Emergency Bill

Presented by Senator Rotundo of Androscoggin

Date: April 13, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, Distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.

We commend the efforts brought forward to improve the workforce shortages experienced in many of our school districts. As you know, credentialing of educators is the purview of the State Board of Education. We recently undertook a thorough and comprehensive review of Chapter 115 which resulted in needed revisions and additional pathways. It is important to note that there currently exist alternative pathways and emergency and conditional certificates available to prospective teachers. If an individual is not eligible for any certificate, a superintendent may request a waiver of certification to hire the individual. We commend the efforts brought forward to improve the workforce shortages experienced in many of our school districts.

In the meantime, the State Board of Education should be included in discussions to address additional pathways and/or alternative means to become certified to teach.

Regarding LD 1217, the State Board welcomes the opportunity to work in concert with the Department of Education to consider creating a pilot program for alternative teacher certification.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. We look forward to participating in the work session.