



Oxford Hills / Nezinscot Adult Education

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RE: Support of LD 1367 – An Act Regarding the Funding Formula for Adult Education

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

This letter is in support of **LD 1367 - An Act Regarding the Funding Formula for Adult Education**. Adult education is an important educational option for many adults and families in Maine. It is time that the legislature made the move to fund it completely to minimize the risk of reduced services simply because there is no money to pay for them. While the money being asked for in this bill is only a start to move adult education to full funding, it's an important start.

Oxford Hills/Nezinscot Adult Education received approximately \$145,400 in subsidy for the three districts it serves: SAD17 (Oxford Hills School District), MVR11 (Maine Vocational Region 11), and RSU10 (representing the towns of Buckfield, Hartford and Sumner). Had this program received the full amount of the subsidies, then the amount would have been nearly \$310,000. The amount received represents 47% of the total.

Currently, the program's expenses exceed the revenue received from subsidy, local share and grants. In recent years, the program has had to rely on temporary sources of funding to balance the budget and has had to reduce expenses related to instruction, including supplies, professional development and technology.

While the program is experiencing an ever-decreasing revenue flow, it has expanded its academic program significantly. Oxford Hills/Nezinscot Adult Education provides academic and HiSET instruction at the Oxford County Jail; academic and basic educational services for parents in the Head Start Program in Norway and soon in the Nezinscot Region (Buckfield, Hartford, Sumner). These academic programs are in addition to the traditional academic, English Language Acquisition and HiSET programs that are offered year-round. The program currently has over 100 academic enrollments.

Maine Adult Education is an important and critical educational partner in the statewide educational system. It is important that Adult Education programs be fully funded to be able to meet the goals of helping every adult in need gain the necessary skills to gain employment or enter post-secondary education.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

Tina Christophersen
Director