

Eddie Cote Riverside Testimony
April 13, 2023

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Edward J. Cote and I am a student with Riverside Adult Education. I have been a student since 2021 and my goal is to go to college to go forward with my education.

I am here today to testify in support of **LD 1367 - An Act Regarding the Funding Formula for Adult Education**. Adult education is an important organization in Maine and it's time that the legislature made the move to fund it completely. The program did lend me a laptop until I got my own and anything I needed they would help me get it.

I came here to finish my education. I've been out of school for little over 30 years and I told my wife and my mom I want to get my high School diploma so I can show everyone that I can do it. If I can do it at the age of 49 going on 50 than anyone can do it. The only thing you have to do is put your mind to it you can do anything. Because at some jobs they won't take anyone without a high school diploma or a GED. What I have learned studying here at Riverside Adult Education is that I got to meet great teachers that care for their students. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't be here today to help me get a better understanding about life and about how important it is to get your High School Diploma or a GED.

As you can see, Riverside Adult Education is important to me. Without adult education, I would not have been able to get a better job. I want to tell myself that I want to get my diploma so I can be proud of myself that I did it with the help of Riverside Adult Education. Adult Education programs need to be fully funded to be able to help other learners with needs like mine.

See I've been in Special Education all my life I finally got a chance to go to school without the help with special Ed I finally got a chance better myself. What I know now what I knew then I wouldn't change anything. Riverside Adult Education helped me through what I want to accomplish and get my education and get my Diploma.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,
Edward J. Cote
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