



Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce

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Proudly serving the towns of Buckfield, Harrison, Hartford, Hebron, Mechanic Falls, Norway, Otisfield, Oxford, Paris, Poland, Sumner, Waterford and West Paris

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. I am John Williams, Executive Director of the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce, located in South Paris.

I am providing this testimony on behalf of the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce and the membership in support of **LD 1367 - An Act Regarding the Funding Formula for Adult Education**. Adult education is a critical organization in Maine and it's important that it be adequately funded. 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.

The Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce is part of a cohesive community that embraces the broadest possible range of economic activities, and that fosters prosperity for all its businesses and citizens while protecting its unique quality of life. The Chamber is also comprised of a recently formed Workforce and Education Committee, which includes local educational leaders and representatives who support K-Adult and post-secondary education and training is also instrumental in providing the region with current updates on local and regional training and educational opportunities as well as educational partnerships.

A key component of all training and educational programming is ensuring that participants will be successful. Employers and post-secondary institutions expect that their employees and students will be prepared for work and continued education. Adult Education provides that educational component that strengthens an individual's foundational knowledge for success. This includes academic courses (diploma and pre-college boot camps), English Language Acquisition, Adult Basic Education, and HiSET preparation studies.

We recognize that Adult Education programs across the state are experiencing in increase in expenses while having funds decrease. By fully funding adult education will certainly provide these programs with what they need to continue providing robust, relevant and engaging programs to our future college students and employees.

Thank you in advance for your support of LD 1367.

Sincerely,

John Williams
Executive Director

“Helping Our Members Succeed!”