

DATE: April 20, 2023
TO: Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs
FROM: Kimberly A. Adler, Esq., Graduate Student - Maine Teacher Residency Program
kadler8788@gmail.com (207) 576-3384
RE: **LD 1608 An Act to Address Teacher Shortages Through Financial Assistance
and Career Advancement Opportunities**

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs:

I am writing to you today in support of LD 1608. I am a Maine lawyer turned educator currently supported by the Maine Teacher Residency Program (MTRP). I am enrolled in my first of two years of Graduate study in the Extended Teacher Education Program at the University of Southern Maine. MTRP provided me with on-site expert mentoring services and supplemental funds to support my costs of living, which include travel to the USM-Gorham campus, textbooks, and mandatory fees associated with my graduate education journey. Without the support of the MTRP, I would struggle to meet professional goals and educational and cost of living expenses. Moreover, Maine public school students benefit from the MTRP through the placement of highly qualified professionals in their classrooms who can deliver meaningful and culturally relevant content aligned to state standards. Continued support of LD 1608 is necessary to ensure Maine public school districts attract and retain highly qualified professionals.

I urge you to support LD1608. Your support will provide education students ongoing access to year long paid positions, supported by expert mentors, and aligned with University curriculum. Additionally, your support will aid local public school districts in addressing a variety of needs with highly qualified professionals. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Adler, Esq.

USM ETEP 2022-23 MTRP recipient, '24 degree candidate