

DATE: April 20, 2023
TO: Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs
FROM: Phyllis Wentworth, Director of Education at The Landing School, Arundel Maine
wentworthphyllis@gmail.com
RE: **LD 1608 An Act to Address Teacher Shortages Through Financial Assistance
and Career Advancement Opportunities**

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

My name is Phyllis Wentworth and I participated in the Maine Teacher Residency Program last year, as a Resident Intern at Biddeford Primary School. I hope this excellent program will continue to be funded by LD 1608 after the federal funds run out in 2024.

The program gave me a chance to have my own small class of students, under the mentorship of an experienced and award-winning teacher. The funding made it feasible for me to afford to enroll in USM's Extended Teacher Education Program, through which I obtained access to the Residency Program.

Please do all that you can to support LD 1608 and keep this program going past 2024.

Thank you.