

LD1741, LD1798, LD1838, LD1841, and LD1860  
Testimony in Opposition to All Five Bills

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

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts on this collection of five bills related to education funding.

I am opposed to state funding of education in general, instead viewing education of children as both the privilege and the responsibility of parents. While I understand that Article VIII of the Maine Constitution requires municipal funding of public schools, it does not require any funding for them from the state level or any funding for non-public education.

Introducing public funding of private schools and homeschools is especially insidious, as wherever government money flows, government control follows and overall costs increase.

While these bills may seem like a boon to Maine families, they will—if passed—end up being a benefit to the big-government forces of the state, for the stick always follows the carrot.

I urge you to reject all five bills and to work to preserve freedom in these areas.

Jonathan S. Beal  
Cherryfield, ME