

Nathan Persinger
Hampden
LD 1860

Honorable Members of the Educational & Cultural Affairs Committee

Thank you for serving Maine citizens. I am writing to ask you to vote Ought NOT to Pass on LD 1798 and LD 1860.

Homeschooling has always flourished without government funding and will continue to do so. Right now, Maine families have the freedom to choose home school curricula that are tailored specifically to each individual child's diverse talents and special needs. Maine parents can also incorporate their particular beliefs into the curriculum, whether those beliefs are secular or faith-based. Parents can incorporate the teachings of the Bible, Koran, Torah, etc into their homeschool studies if they so choose.

Government funding for homeschooling invites the government to mandate curriculum ideals and standards. The state's aptitude test scores indicate that cookie-cutter curriculum standards found in public schools are failing our students. Maine's class of 2022 average SAT scores are in the bottom 20% of US states (<https://www.number2.com/average-sat-score/>). Homeschooling is becoming increasingly popular in the wake of the pandemic and it should be allowed to continue to grow, untouched. The current law ensures that students are progressing through age-appropriate milestones as a Maine licensed teacher must certify that the education requirements are being met. Alternatively, homeschooled students can participate in standardized testing to demonstrate educational progress.

Please vote Ought NOT to Pass on LD 1798 and LD 1860 and continue to allow Maine families the freedom to select the curriculum that fits their children and allows each child to flourish in their own individual, diverse strengths.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Persinger
Hampden