

Regional School Unit 1

34 Wing Farm Parkway, Bath, ME 04530

*Patrick Manuel, Superintendent
Debra Clark, Business Manager*

*Katie Joseph, Assist. Superintendent
Sarah Rent, Director Special Education*

Think - Care - Act



May 8, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Rafferty and Representative Brennan and Members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

I am writing in support of LD 1799, **An Act to Expand Maine's High-Quality Early Learning and Care for Children by Increasing Public Preschool Opportunities in Communities.**

RSU 1 has been fortunate to partner with local child care programs to offer public Pre-K programming and other early child care options for families. These partnerships have helped strengthen our school system by working with students at an earlier age to prepare them to enter our school district. Our local YMCA is currently in the process of expanding their child care facility and programming. Early child-care availability and quality are critical for families and businesses.

Additional funding to support preschool expansion and the exploration of regional hubs and early learning councils will allow communities to develop, expand, and enhance early learning partnerships in their communities.

Thank you for all that you do, and for your consideration of this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Patrick M. Manuel'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Patrick Manuel, Superintendent

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