



## Maine Education Association

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**Testimony  
In Support Of  
LD 2131: An Act to Support Extended Learning Opportunities  
Before the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
January 24, 2024**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and other esteemed members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,

My name is John Bracciodieta, and I am the Organizing and Data Specialist at the Maine Education Association. I am submitting this written testimony on behalf of the Maine Education Association in support of LD 2131, An Act to Support Extended Learning Opportunities.

The Maine Education Association supports the addition of extended learning opportunities to the authorized pathways of learning in Maine statute. The MEA recognizes and understands the value in providing students, with a variety of individual interests and backgrounds, meaningful learning opportunities both inside and outside of the traditional classroom. This is especially the case with respect to career exploration.

Community based extended learning opportunities can be valuable if provided in a well thought out and structured educational plan. However, we would caution that the success of extended learning opportunities is in part dependent upon our schools being equipped with the resources, staff, and planning time necessary to assist students in the development of truly meaningful extended learning opportunities.

Thank you for your time and please reach out with any questions you may have.

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