

Marion Murray
Orono, Maine
March 11, 2025

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee Education and Cultural Affairs:

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Marion Murray, I live in Orono, and am a UMaine student teacher at Leonard Middle School in Old Town. I am also currently participating in the Maine Teacher Residency Program and I am here in support of LD 696. MTRP has allowed me to fully embrace the classroom by giving me the chance to run my own with support from my mentor. I have been able to experience what teaching is like as the only adult in the room, which textbooks and seminars cannot prepare you for. As a full time student, MTRP has also given me the ability to cover the expenses of living on my own. I would have had to work two or three extra jobs to be able to support myself, but MTRP gives me the opportunity to focus on finishing my schooling instead of worrying about money. I have seen many of my fellow classmates turn away from student teaching simply because they cannot afford to miss work and they know that it can be a stressful transition. MTRP helped me make that transition and I know that LD 696 can benefit many future educators. Student teachers are among the only undergraduates asked to volunteer 5 full days a week at an internship without compensation, even though they are the ones teaching future generations, your children or grandchildren. I am proof of how this program has successfully impacted educators, and I ask you to consider how LD 696 can alleviate the financial burden placed on student teachers, the future of the education system. Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 696. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Marion Murray