



The Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and  
Business

Testimony from Jason Judd, Executive Director, Educate Maine

**In Support Of**

L.D. # 149: "An Act to Facilitate Licensure for Credentialed Individuals from Other Jurisdictions"

March 23, 2021

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, distinguished members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Jason Judd, Executive Director at Educate Maine, a business-led education advocacy organization. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of L.D. # 149.

Educate Maine's mission is to ensure that Maine people are prepared to succeed in education and career and that all Maine people reach their highest educational potential. As a member of the MaineSpark coalition, we measure this by attainment - the share of adult workers with a postsecondary credential of value in demand by Maine employers. Maine's goal is to reach 60% by 2025. The only way we can reach this goal is by welcoming workers from outside of Maine and helping them transition successfully into the workforce.

This bill supports expanded credential recognition and allows for workers to attain temporary licensure, so that people can enter the workforce while pursuing their professional licensure in Maine. We know credentialing can often be a barrier in professional occupations in Maine. We need to work collaboratively with Maine's Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to help workers with the burden of this process. LD 149 will help educated and experienced workers to transition to Maine and start within their chosen careers quickly.

In 2018, Educate Maine, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, and the Maine Development Foundation published "Making Maine Work" which included survey results of the most pressing opportunities and challenges for Maine employers. Three of the top areas the employers communicated as priorities for Maine's Governor related to workforce development: they expressed the tremendous need for professional workers, the need for skilled technical workers, and the need for entry-level workers. I continue to hear these same concerns from Maine employers since the report was published.

This bill will help address the shortage of professional and technical workers in Maine. It will benefit workers coming from other states, other countries, and continue to make Maine a more inclusive place to live and work. I strongly encourage you to support this bill to address our

workforce challenges in Maine. This bill benefits employers, supports workers, and eliminates unnecessary barriers for people to enter the workforce.

Thank you for your time.

Jason Judd  
Educate Maine