

Stacia Brough
Norway, ME
LD 2159

Hello, my name is Stacia Brough, and I'm from Norway, Maine. I am the mother of a 3-year-old and a disabled 16-month-old who will be attending public school in Maine in the near future. I am here today because I want to make sure that when my children, and every child in Maine, get on a school bus, they are safe.

The loss of Brayden and Simon was heartbreaking and completely preventable. These were children who should still be here today, laughing, learning, and growing. The safety measures included in LD 2159, specifically safety arm bars and anti-pinch door sensors that cannot be deactivated are proven to prevent injuries and deaths on school buses. These are not complicated fixes; they are common-sense protections that every child deserves.

As technology improves, our safety standards must improve as well. School buses are carrying our most precious passengers. It is our responsibility to make sure they are equipped with the safest technology available. We are asking for protections that can literally save lives.

I also want to recognize Governor Janet Mills' proposed bill addressing school bus safety. LD 2159 aligns with the Governor's vision and strengthens it by requiring these essential safety features on every bus. Supporting this bill shows that Maine lawmakers are serious about protecting children, not just talking about it.

Funding for these upgrades is essential. Importantly, this does not need to put an extra burden on schools. The money could come from state safety grants, partnerships with organizations that support child safety, or other public funding programs. Making these improvements now is far less costly than the human and emotional toll of preventable tragedies. Every dollar spent on prevention is a dollar that saves lives and protects families.

I am speaking not only as a concerned citizen but as a mother. I cannot imagine the pain of losing a child to something that could have been prevented. Supporting LD 2159 is a step we can take today to make sure no other family has to endure that grief. It is our responsibility to act.

Please, help protect the children of Maine. Support LD 2159. Every child deserves to arrive at school safely and return home safely.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Stacia Brough
Norway, Maine