

Testimony in support of

LD 1422, An Act to Prepare Maine People for the Future Economy

May 6, 2011

Senator Langley, Representative Richardson and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Henry Scipione. I am the superintendent of schools in York and serve as the Education Vice Chair of the Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education. I am here today to urge your support of **LD 1422, An Act to Prepare Maine People for the Future Economy.**

It seems fitting that this proposed legislation is being discussed on the final day of Teacher Appreciation Week. On behalf of the MCEE membership, I want to say a sincere 'Thank You' to all teachers in Maine for the work they do every day in their classrooms across the state. Their commitment to our students' academic and social success is truly commendable.

We know there are many positive and encouraging learning opportunities being provided to students throughout Maine. We also know that we must increase our educational expectations for all students in Maine in order to achieve stronger student outcomes. Our students require a more rigorous and challenging educational experience that will increase expectations for student outcomes. It is for this reason that I stand before you today to testify in favor of LD 1422. Simply stated, we need a coordinated approach to education in Maine. We must embrace the notion that a high performing education system is the foundation for a robust economy and for the future of our State. It is an economic and social imperative that we move forward with this initiative now.

It will not surprise you, but I agree with yesterday's editorial in the Brunswick Times Record. In particular, the last sentence: **"In terms of its potential impact on Maine's future, [LD 1422] might ... be one of the most important bills to come up in the first session of the 125th Legislature."**

LD 1422 is comprehensive in its call for a coordinated system of education from early childhood through entry into the workforce. This bill has clear goals and benchmarks for measuring performance and it creates a strategic long-term vision of education in this State. This bill will help create the roadmap needed to truly support all Maine students and Prepare Maine for the 21st century.

Thank you for considering my comments here today and for your efforts on behalf of Maine students.

Sincerely,
Henry Scipione Ed.D, MCEE Education Vice Chair
Superintendent of Schools – York