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*Testimony of Rep. Scott Cuddy in support of*  
**LD 1939, An Act To Protect School Administration Officials from Harassment and Abuse**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I am Scott Cuddy and I represent House District 98, which includes Frankfort, Searsport, Swanville and Winterport. I am here today to speak in support of **LD 1939, “An Act To Protect School Administration Officials from Harassment and Abuse.”**

Education professionals in our state should not be subject to abuse. They should not be subject to bullying and harassment. They deserve protection under the law and LD 1939 is a good step toward that end.

In my children’s school district teachers and administrators have been bullied online. One local critic insulted an administrator’s daughter online in order to go after the administrator. I don’t know what is wrong with people that would make them do something like this, but it’s important that we support our administrators and teachers.

No one is saying that legitimate criticism should be criminalized. The right to free speech is one of the most treasured there is, and this bill does nothing to inhibit that right. By merely adding these professions to an already protected class we can give them the support and protection they need while still respecting the rights of citizens to have their say.

I hope you will vote Ought To Pass on LD 1939.