

Talking Points: LD 1799

1. If it's not broken, don't fix it.

The firewall between teacher evaluations and student testing was enacted for sound policy reasons. The law was developed in response to abuses in local schools and given as an assurance to educators during the development of the Maine Educational Assessments that statewide tests would not be used to the detriment of teachers.

It has worked well and should be retained.

2. LD 1799 gives away Maine's academic integrity for a lottery chance.

LD 1799 is part of the Race To The Top competitive grant process in which **two-thirds of the applicants will receive nothing**. Maine is being asked to change its policy and pedagogical practices for a turn at the slot machine.

3. LD 1799 is a dumb idea.

Teacher evaluation is a complex process that should be thoughtfully carried out by local schools boards, not a simplistic and arbitrary test. It is akin to evaluating a coach based on the score in one game. This will demoralize an already highly stressed teacher workforce and drive good people out of education.