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Testimony of Representative Michael Brennan presenting
LD 98, An Act to Update the Special Education Laws
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Dear Senator Rafferty and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

Today I am introducing a bill for the Department of Education, ***LD 98, An Act to Update the Special Education Laws***.

This bill clarifies that providing equal opportunities for education for children with disabilities means providing equal opportunities for an appropriate education. The bill changes the age of eligibility for special education and for participation in career and technical education courses by adults who are enrolled in special education from under 20 to under 22. The bill also updates some terms to reflect current practice and language.

There is an amendment to this bill that includes a language change for the term “serious emotional disturbance” to “emotionally disabled.”

The Department of Education will present testimony on this bill and I respectfully request that you defer any specific questions regarding the content to them. I look forward to working with you as the Committee deliberates the bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.