

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 156

AN ACT TO REQUIRE OUTDOOR RECESS TIME FOR STUDENTS FROM GRADE 6 TO GRADE 8

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Eileen King, deputy executive director of Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association in opposition to L.D. 156.

School Board members and superintendents support getting students outside for recess, but oppose this bill because it should be a local decision based on local circumstances.

This bill would require 20 minutes of outdoor recess, no fewer than 3 days a week for students grade 6 to grade 8.

Due to the variety of grade configurations at different schools, the need to schedule students in and out of classes, work around lunch schedules and consider the size of the facility and what school districts can accommodate, Superintendents recommend that this should be a goal, but should remain a local decision.