

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT FOR

L.D. 258

AN ACT MAKING UNIFIED APPROPRIATIONS AND ALLOCATIONS FROM THE GENERAL
FUND AND OTHER FUNDS FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF STATE GOVERNMENT
AND CHANGING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LAW NECESSARY TO THE
PROPER OPERATIONS OF STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,
2023, JUNE 30, 2024 AND JUNE 30, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Rafferty and Representative Brennan, and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Education and Cultural Affairs Committees, I am Victoria Wallack, Director of Communications and Government Relations for Maine School Management Association testifying in support of L.D. 258 on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards and Maine School Superintendents Associations.

Our members appreciate the ongoing support from Governor Mills, the Appropriations Committee and the Education Committee for funding public education at the promised 55 percent. Meeting that obligation sends an important message to our school districts and is respectful to taxpayers who have consistently supported local school budgets across the state.

We also want to highlight our support for fully funding school meals for all students, regardless of their family's income. This eliminates any stigma that occurred under the old system.

We also want to note the continued support in the budget for Career and Technical Education, which prepares our students for work after graduation and helps them decide what jobs and careers they want to pursue. This workforce development is essential as our current workforce moves toward retirement.