

## TESTIMONY NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

L.D. 204

### AN ACT TO ENSURE SAFE ACCESS TO SCHOOLS BY IMPLEMENTING INTERLOCKING DOOR CONTROLLER TECHNOLOGY

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, neither for nor against L.D. 204.

The safety of our students and staff is a paramount responsibility of school leaders, but do not feel that this type of door can or should be legislated. We have hundreds of school buildings in our state and they are all built differently. Many of our schools cannot accommodate interlocking door controller technology due to where the school campus is located, the structure of the school, and the location of the doors in the school.

School safety requires a framework composed of technology, training, education, and community engagement. We need to make sure that school districts are implementing safety measures that meet the needs of their students and staff based on the size, design, and age of the facility.

We also note that while the bill requires the state to provide funds for installing that technology, there is no fiscal note on L.D. 204 at this time. One can reasonably anticipate that fiscal note will be substantial given the age of many of our school buildings in Maine.

One suggestion is to turn this bill into a resolve to look at what it would cost to install interlocking doors in all schools and over what time frame.