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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 957

AN ACT REQUIRING WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS IN NEW AND RENOVATED PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Victoria Wallack, director of communications and government relations for 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. 957.

Our associations oppose this bill. While we think the intent is positive, it is unnecessary. In many locations, these water bottles filling stations are already being installed using local dollars and grants received for this purpose. We don't believe these are the kind of mandates the state should put on school construction or renovation.

New school and substantial school renovation projects are financed through local taxpayer dollars, state funding, or a combination of both. There are rules around that construction that focus on school safety and the creation of good learning spaces.

As long as the fountains are safe to use, we feel it is an overreach to dictate the kind of water fountains that should be installed within a renovation or during new construction. That decision should be part of the decision-making process within the building design process.