



**Maine Education Association**

**Grace Leavitt President | Jesse Hargrove Vice President | Beth French Treasurer  
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**Testimony  
In Support of**

**LD 450 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade and Replace  
Emergency Alert System Infrastructure of Maine Public  
Grace Leavitt, President, Maine Education Association  
Before the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
April 25, 2023**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

My name is Grace Leavitt. My pronouns are she, her, hers. I am serving as President of the Maine Education Association while on leave from teaching Spanish in MSAD 51. I have over 43 years of classroom teaching experience with 20 years as a National Board Certified teacher. The MEA represents nearly 24,000 educators in our Maine system of public education in pre-K-12 schools, in our institutions of higher education, both the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System, many of the employees of Maine Public Broadcasting, as well as students in teacher prep programs and many retired educators.

MEA supports LD 450 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade and Replace Emergency Alert System Infrastructure of Maine Public.

Maine Public Broadcasting provides the statewide system to alert all other stations around the state in the event of any number of kinds of emergencies that threaten the safety of the people of Maine. This system is an essential component of public safety in our state, yet the infrastructure is aging. This needs to be addressed. MPBN relies heavily on membership and donor support for its funding (more than half of the operating budget). The bonds that would be issued through the passing of LD 450 will provide much needed dollars to ensure the infrastructure of the alert system can be upgraded so that it continues to provide this vital service for the people of Maine.

We urge your support of LD 450.