

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 2089

AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION REGARDING PREVENTION OF THE ILLEGAL USE OF FENTANYL AND OTHER DRUGS AND DRUG POISONING AWARENESS IN GRADES 6 TO 12 AND TO ESTABLISH DRUG POISONING AWARENESS WEEK

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Victoria Wallack, Director of Communications and Government Liaison at 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. 2089.

We are well aware of the dangers of fentanyl and the devastating effect it and other drugs have on too many young people in Maine.

We are opposed to this bill because there already is a process through the Department of Education to review and amend curriculum requirements through the review of Maine's Learning Results and teaching about the devastating impact of narcotics already is required.

It can be found in Title 20-A and reads in part:

§4723. Health and physical education

The secondary course of study must include instruction in health, safety and physical education, as prescribed by the commissioner, and physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effects of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics upon the human system.

Our associations support the section of the bill advocating for Drug Poisoning Awareness Week, which is being promoted by the state's Director of Opioid Response Gordon Smith, Secretary of State Sheena Bellows and Governor Mills.