

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 31

### AN ACT REGARDING SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

February 5, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan Murphy and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Eileen King, deputy executive director for Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association in support of L.D. 31.

Our associations believe this bill is an important step to ensure that children of our military members receive the educational stability and continuity they deserve.

According to the [Department of Defense](#), the child of an active military member may be required to move six to nine times from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. And each of those moves can mean uprooting a child from their home and support system, adding substantial stressors to their relationships, social lives and potentially impeding their academic progress.

Our schools work as hard as possible to support military-connected students: acting quickly to enroll students, assessing prior coursework, and providing them with the necessary academic and extracurricular supports to ensure they succeed in their new schools.

We believe this bill would offer more educational stability to the more than 1,200 military-connected students in our state, providing them with the consistency and support they need to reach their academic goals. We urge you to vote “ought to pass” on L.D. 31. Thank you.