



MAINE COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

A State Branch of the American Counseling Association

February 25, 2025

Testimony in Support of LD 98

An Act to Include School Counselors in the Educators for Maine Program

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs:

My name is Stan Pelletier, I am the Public Policy Chair of the Maine Counseling Association, a state branch of the American Counseling Association, and a school counselor at the Bucksport High School. I wish to express the support of the Maine Counseling Association for LD 98 "An Act to Include School Counselors in the Educators for Maine Program."

We are appreciative of the ongoing efforts of the members of the Education and Cultural Affairs committee to provide support to Maine students and the professional educators and mental health specialists who serve them, especially in underserved populations and rural or geographically isolated parts of the state. Adding certified school counselors (Maine DOE certification 075) to the list of professionals included as beneficiaries of the Educators for Maine Program will substantially assist those seeking to pursue a career as a school counselor while living and working in the state of Maine. We appreciate and support efforts to help alleviate the financial burdens associated with higher education costs for aspiring educators and mental health professionals.

Thank you for your time and attention, and as always the Maine Counseling Association stands ready to assist committee members with information, perspective, and judgment in matters regarding the profession of counseling.

Respectfully,

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