

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 78

AN ACT TO REQUIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO LEARN CURSIVE WRITING

February 27, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Noonan Murphy and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Steven Bailey, 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 opposition to L.D. 78.

We oppose this bill because it would impose another unfunded mandate onto our local schools, adding additional burdens on our educators.

We already have a process to periodically amend the Maine Learning Results, involving reviewing standards, working together with stakeholders, and listening to public comment. The state also offers professional learning and guidance. We do not believe that it should be the purpose of any individual bill to circumvent this process, or to dictate any particular instructional components and outcomes.

We understand that many parents or community members want to ensure that their students learn cursive writing within their local schools. That decision should be left up to the local school board, which can receive input from staff, parents, and community members, while weighing the district's priorities, resources, and financial picture.

In fact, many of our school districts continue to teach and require cursive, but we believe that this should remain a local decision. We urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on L.D. 78.