

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 747

OFFICERS

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO REDUCE STUDENT HOMELESSNESS

PRESIDENT

Faye Anderson
RSU 22

March 18, 2025

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Joseph Long
MSAD 35/RSU 35

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, I am Steven Bailey, the executive director of the Maine School Boards Association, speaking on behalf of the MSBA Legislative Committee in opposition to L.D. 747.

VICE PRESIDENT

Roy Gott
RSU 24

This was a difficult decision for our association, as school board members believe in supporting the academic and social needs of all of our students. This is a deep, longstanding value and is in fact included in our organization's System of Resolutions:

**IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT**

Jane Osborne
Deer Isle-Stonington CSD

"The Maine School Boards Association recognizes that there are many social needs of children that affect learning. Therefore, local boards are encouraged to examine the role of their schools in meeting the needs of students and their families in a coordinated manner."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Steven W. Bailey

School boards take this responsibility seriously. Many districts are prioritizing the addition of social workers to directly work with these students and get them the supports they need. Schools throughout Maine also work together with nonprofits and municipal officials to connect families with General Assistance and other local resources.

If our state budget was in a better situation, we would likely voice our full support for L.D. 747, but that is not the case.

**MAINE COUNCIL OF
SCHOOL BOARD
ATTORNEYS**

Isabel Ekman, Esq., Chair

As you all know, our state faces a challenging budget situation over the next biennium. At the same time, school board members are deeply concerned about proposed cuts to education on the federal level, which we worry could lead to the loss of potentially millions of dollars to Maine schools. We expect our state and local governments may need to make up the difference or risk losing programming.

In this environment, our school board members believe that legislators should prioritize existing educational priorities – 55% state funding, support for students with disabilities, universal school meals – and should not consider additional costs that could jeopardize our core priorities. Unfortunately, because of this difficult environment, we would ask you to vote "ought not to pass" on L.D. 747.