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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support Of

LD 1992 - An Act to Create a Process for the Residents of a Municipality to Withdraw from a School Union

January 20, 2026

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Education & Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in support of LD 1992 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). Our LPC is composed of municipal officials from across Maine, elected by their peers to represent member communities. MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization that aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents of Maine.

Current statutes do not provide a withdrawal process for school unions as they do for regional school units creating an inequitable barrier for systems facing similar realities such as declining enrollment, increasing costs, and a growing need for flexibility in how educational services are delivered.

Like RSU communities, school unions are held accountable for student outcomes and taxpayer dollars, yet they lack the same tools to respond when the existing structure no longer meets local needs. Residents of Maine have long valued local decision making, fairness and responsible governance. Aligning the withdrawal process for school unions respects those values, treats communities equally under the law, and empowers voters to make thoughtful decisions about their schools' future.

Thank you for your time and considering the municipal perspective on this issue.



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