

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 2020

AN ACT TO UPDATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I am Eric Waddell, 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. 2020.

While L.D. 2020 is largely focused on what the Maine DOE must report to your committee, our local schools believe the additional information required in this bill will better inform Maine as a whole, helping the state and local school districts to make decisions in the best interest of students.

Much of this additional information revolves around the transition of FAPE for children aged 3-5 from the state to local school districts. While some districts have shared that this transition has resulted in positive change so far – and more students receiving services – other districts are still reticent to take on this additional responsibility. We believe that L.D. 2020 will provide additional critical information to districts, including:

- Enrollment data for preschool special education students being served in school administrative units
- Expenditure data for those students
- Data on MaineCare claims for those students, and
- Data regarding current and emerging trends and challenges that are influencing or expected to influence costs, services or service delivery methods.

Requiring this additional data in statute will ensure that local schools have robust, useful information as they continue to take on this important responsibility.

Thank you for your consideration.