

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 2109

AN ACT TO DEFINE “PUBLIC EDUCATION” AND CLARIFY THAT A PRIVATE SCHOOL RECEIVING APPROVAL FOR PUBLIC TUITION MUST BE LOCATED IN THE STATE

January 29, 2026

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I am Eileen King, Deputy 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. 2109 and supports the bill’s definition of “public education.” This clarity matters as school districts, families, and policymakers will benefit from a shared understanding that public education is grounded in universal access, public oversight, and consistent accountability to students and taxpayers.

L.D. 2109 also clarifies that any private school receiving public tuition funds must be located within the State of Maine. Requiring an in-state location preserves meaningful oversight, supports local communities, and ensures that public funds remain invested in Maine’s educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.