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February 16, 2023

Testimony of Rep. Amy Kuhn in support of

LD 280, An Act to Make Maine Schools Safer and Healthier by Increasing the Maximum Debt Service Limit

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Good afternoon, Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and esteemed members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. My name is Amy Kuhn and I represent House District 111, which is most of Falmouth. I regret that a committee conflict keeps me from testifying in person today, but I am pleased to submit these brief written comments in support of **LD 280, An Act to Make Maine Schools Safer and Healthier by Increasing the Maximum Debt Service Limit.**

Currently, many Maine schools are in use well beyond their expected 40-50 year lifespan and require critical repairs. By increasing the maximum debt service limit for projects, schools will be able to remedy this by implementing important safety and health upgrades that will help to keep our students safe and comfortable in school. Investing in upgrades to our facilities is crucial in making sure the next generation of Mainers are educated and ready to contribute positively to our state.

With the next rating cycle anticipated for 2024, let us make sure we are prepared by increasing the maximum debt limit so we can target as many schools as possible for critical improvements.

Thank you for your consideration.