



Jeffrey Timberlake
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THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Jeffrey Timberlake

LD 1263 “An Act to Require School Identification Cards to Include the Telephone of a Suicide Prevention Hotline”

Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

April 5, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. I am Jeff Timberlake and I represent Senate District 17, which includes the towns of Greene, Leeds, Lisbon, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Sabattus, Turner and Wales in Androscoggin County and Fayette and Litchfield in Kennebec County. I am here to speak in support of LD 1263, “An Act to Require School Identification Cards to Include the Telephone of a Suicide Prevention Hotline.”

As you have heard from the sponsor, this bill is pretty straightforward to require a school identification card to include the telephone number of a suicide prevention hotline.

According to Maine CDC data from 2017 to current there have been 13,782 teenagers 19 and under who have gone to the emergency room because they had intent to commit suicide. How many more did not go and but found help elsewhere or sadly did not find help.

If this simple bill saves even one life, I believe it is well worth it to do. I do not see how it would cost anymore to print the number on the student ID as the ones I looked at have space available with color or a design.

I encourage this committee to support this common sense legislation.