



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF LD 1263

An Act to Require School Identification Cards to Include the Telephone Number of a Suicide Prevention Hotline.

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and esteemed colleagues on the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee -

It is an honor to come before you today to present LD 1263, *An Act to Require School Identification Cards to Include the Telephone Number of a Suicide Prevention Hotline*, along with the Honorable MaryAnne Kinney.

To me, this is not a complicated bill but one that could certainly offer lifesaving contact for an at risk student. You may be aware that a similar bill was a priority in our neighboring State of New Hampshire, ultimately being signed into law last August. That bill did, and this bill would, require all public schools that issue student IDs to include the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number on them.

I would like LD 1263 to include language in the bill that says, "*any student ID cards for sixth grade through college age must include the 988 and/or 1-800-273-8255 number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.*" If passed, this law would apply to public and charter schools as well as public and private universities in our state. Any individual that calls that number is routed to their closest area code, not necessarily their physical address. Callers find immediate HELP.

Every student needs equal access to vital support and counsel in a life-threatening situation. This bill would establish one more critical opportunity to save a life. It offers another way of addressing our mental health challenges. If this bill saves a single life, it is worth it!