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CORRECTED VERSION

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 957

AN ACT REQUIRING WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS IN NEW
AND RENOVATED PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Eileen King, deputy executive director of Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association, in opposition to L.D. 957.

Our associations understand that there are many pros to installing water bottle filling station but oppose the bill as this would be another unfunded mandate. The average cost of purchasing a filling station for schools is \$1,500.

New school and substantial school renovation projects are financed through local taxpayer dollars, state funding, or a combination of both. There are rules around construction that focus on school safety and the creation of healthy learning spaces. Building committees come together to make decisions about every aspect of the new project. The decision to install water filling stations should be left to the decision-making process within the building design process.