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THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

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Testimony in Support of LD 1898

An Act to Ensure That a Teacher Who Participates in the Prevention of Dangerous Behavior Is Protected Under a Collective Bargaining Agreement

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Troy Jackson. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and proudly represent Aroostook County in the Legislature. I am here today to support LD 1898, *An Act to Ensure That a Teacher Who Participates in the Prevention of Dangerous Behavior Is Protected Under a Collective Bargaining Agreement*.

As many of you who were on this Committee remember, the 129th Legislature passed LD 1370. The intent of that bill was to protect educators and students who found themselves in dangerous positions due to threatening student behaviors. The new law was designed to ensure that educators had the tools, resources, and professional development necessary to address these incidents. It offered guidance on how to carefully and fairly assess these difficult situations. Unfortunately, the guidance is not always followed and there have been reports of increased dangerous behavior.

That is the reason for LD 1898. In order to protect both students and educators - in order to meet their needs - this bill offers an additional layer of protection. It simply states that if a public school employee disputes the incident report of a dangerous behavioral incident, that employee, if covered by a collective bargaining agreement, may request proceeding with the dispute resolution process. This is necessary only when the employee disagrees with the review of the reported incident by a school administrator, be it the superintendent, assistant superintendent, a building administrator, or the building principal.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your consideration of LD 1898 and ask that you further support our public school educators and their students by supporting this bill. I look forward to your questions, but believe there are those who will follow me that have specific information that will clearly demonstrate the need for this action. Thank you.