

**Testimony for  
The Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
January 11, 2024**

To: Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and other Distinguished Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

From: Scott K. Porter, Superintendent of Schools, AOS 96 (11 Towns in the Machias Area)

**LD 808: “An Act to Amend Laws Affecting Tuition at State-Approved Schools”.**

As you know, the Essential Programs and Services Funding model is based on a variety of factors which includes student enrollment. The student enrollment counts are submitted to the Maine Department of Education in October of each school year. If a student comes into a school system after October 1 the school district will not receive subsidy for that student. Some of my school districts tuition students to other schools because they do not operate a high school and in some cases I have towns that do not operate an elementary or high school. Those towns have to upfront the tuition money to obtain subsidy the following year if the student is in the October 1 count. If the student arrives after the October 1 date, the town upfronts tuition money and will receive no subsidy for that student. It seems in the 21<sup>st</sup> century there should be a more accurate way of recording student counts for subsidy purposes. LD 808 is a bill that would solve the student count issue. It is my hope this Committee will support this bill which is a pathway for school districts to receive a more accurate flow of school subsidy in the future.

Thank you.