



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Rep. Michael Brennan introducing*

## **LD 98, An Act to Include School Counselors in the Educators for Maine Program**

*before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

Good morning Representative Murphy, Senator Rafferty and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

My name is Michael Brennan, and I represent House District 115, which includes a portion of Portland.

Today I am here to introduce a bill for the Department of Education, **LD 98, An Act to Include School Counselors in the Educators for Maine Program**, which would add “school counselor” as a postbaccalaureate certification that is eligible for financial assistance under the Educators for Maine Program administered by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME).

Currently, school counselors are not eligible to access any FAME programs. Other school-based mental health professionals can access FAME programs through the medical professionals' programs, and teachers and speech pathologists can access FAME educator programs.

The Department of Education will present testimony on this bill, and I respectfully request that you defer any specific questions regarding the bill's content to them. I look forward to working with you as the Committee deliberates LD 98.

Thank you for your consideration.