

**Testimony for  
The Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
February 26, 2025**

To: Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy 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 181: “An Act to Modify the Calculation of Pupil Counts Used for Determination of School Administrative Unit Operating Costs”.**

As you know, the Essential Programs and Services Funding model is based on a variety of factors which includes student enrollment. The current Funding Formula averages two October student counts to calculate an operating allocation on page 2 of the ED 279 Report. This bill would change the operating calculation to an average of three October student counts or the most recent October student count, whichever is greater. This would help districts with declining enrollment, but would reward districts that have a one year enrollment increase. It is my hope this Committee will support this method of calculating student counts in the EPS Funding Formula.

Thank you.