



Maine Administrators of
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Education

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*MACTE's mission is to
lead and advocate for
CTE in Maine.*

TESTIMONY REGARDING

L.D. 396

An Act to Provide for a Later Starting Time for High Schools

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Dave Keaton, Executive Director of Maine Administrators of Career & Technical Education, testifying on behalf of the CTE Directors of the Maine Administrators of Career & Technical Education (MACTE). MACTE would like to address LD 396 as we are neither for or against this bill.

This bill requires that, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each school administrative unit ensure that its secondary schools' school days start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Our MACTE CTE Directors have strong concerns that LD 396 would hamper Maine CTEs from continuing to train our next generation of Maine skilled workforce:

- We consider this is a Local control issue
- 8:30 start time for all (no earlier than or later) - does this allow for dissimilar start times
- Transportation concerns at a time of scarce drivers and expensive gas
- Impact on local employers who rely on high school help after school
- Can we guarantee 350 hours of CTE instruction?
- Minimal gains for schools currently using later starts
- Possible sports conflicts in the afternoon sessions
- Time loss would be compounded when high schools have early releases

We look forward to discussing this matter with all of you in future work sessions.

Yours in education,

Dave Keaton

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Dave Keaton, MACTE Executive Director