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Testimony of Representative Anne Graham in support of

LD 242, An Act to Extend the Maximum Time Period for Certain School Construction Bonds

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Good day, Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and the esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. I am Representative Anne Graham and I serve the communities of North Yarmouth and the majority of Gray, House District 105. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **LD 242, An Act to Extend the Maximum Time Period for Certain School Construction Bonds**.

This bill amends the law regarding the borrowing power belonging to school administrative districts and regional school unit boards. It amends the provisions governing temporary notes issued in anticipation of a sale of school construction bonds to extend the time period that applies when bonds are issued to fund temporary notes from a maximum period of 25 years to a maximum period of 30 years.

My friends on the Education Committee, I have lived in MSAD #51 for over 30 years, raising three sons who successfully graduated and have moved on to adulthood. My husband is a soccer coach and substitute teacher in our school district. My husband and I chose to live in North Yarmouth for many reasons, but one major consideration was the excellent school system. Many, many other families have chosen our communities of Cumberland and North Yarmouth for the same reason – that's the dilemma, our schools are bursting at the seams and, in fact, overflowing. We have 29 portable classrooms that are hosting our youngest children. Portables have been a part of our school system for as long as I can recall. Including 22 portable rooms for our second and third graders and seven portable rooms for our sixth, seventh and eighth graders. This measure will assist our school in funding the necessary construction to make sure our children have a healthy environment in which to learn and grow.

I believe this bill will help both my local school system and our taxpayers, as well as others around the state, by fixing the inconsistency in maximum bond terms. I encourage you to pass LD 242.

Thank you.