



**Dan Shagoury**

P.O. Box 202

Hallowell, ME 04347

Phone: 207-242-2169

[Dan.Shagoury@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Dan.Shagoury@legislature.maine.gov)

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

April 23, 2025

*Testimony of Representative Dan Shagoury in support of*  
**LD 1248, An Act Regarding Physical Escort and Restraint and Seclusion  
of Students in Schools**

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

Good afternoon Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. I am Representative Dan Shagoury, and I represent House District 55 – the communities of Hallowell, Manchester and West Gardiner. I am pleased to speak in support of **LD 1248, An Act Regarding Physical Escort and Restraint and Seclusion of Students in Schools**.

Last fall, I was approached by the management of one of the school districts in my district about serious behavioral issues in their schools – especially the lower grades. She asked if there was something that could be done legislatively to allow staff to be more effective in addressing these problems. In addition to damage to property and serious disruptions to learning, students and staff were being injured – sometimes seriously.

I spoke with other teachers and administrators in both that school district and others, and they all agreed that there had been an uptick in behavior issues. I happened to speak with Representative Sargent, and she had heard the same thing.

We met with teachers and administrators of SAD 11 and they worked with us to develop a solution. This bill is the result.

This bill only makes minor word changes to the existing law, but I think this will make a big difference. It will allow school staff to intervene earlier and more effectively. It will make it a little easier for a staff member to move a student in crisis to a safe location. Critically, it lowers the threshold for intervention from “imminent serious physical injury” to “imminent injury.” Determining how serious an injury will be is incredibly subjective and difficult to determine in the midst of a crisis. This change should make it less likely that anyone will be hurt.

You will hear from administrators and staff after me, and they will describe the situations this bill seeks to address.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you will support this bill.