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*Testimony of Rep. Holly T. Sargent introducing
LD 2052, Resolve, to Study the Use of Technology in Classrooms and Study
Safeguards Related to Its Use
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

Good morning, Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and fellow colleagues of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Representative Holly Sargent, and I represent House District 147 in York. I am here today to introduce **LD 2052, Resolve, to Study the Use of Technology in Classrooms and Study Safeguards Related to Its Use**.

As educational technologies—particularly artificial intelligence-driven tools—rapidly proliferate in K–12 classrooms, the pace of adoption has far outstripped the development of necessary oversight, evaluation and accountability frameworks. While technology can offer real benefits when thoughtfully implemented, the absence of robust, Maine-specific evidence of educational effectiveness and safety compliance exposes students and educators to significant and growing risks.

These risks include the displacement of proven teaching methods in favor of well-marketed but poorly validated products; unchecked automation that can erode critical thinking skills, and expansive data harvesting practices that, when combined with AI models, raise serious concerns about student privacy, data security and intellectual property. Without clear governance, transparent audits and rigorous evaluation, new technologies may outpace our ability to detect harm, exceed our capacity to regulate and irrevocably alter the K–12 educational experience in unintended ways.

LD 2052 takes a careful, evidence-based approach to this challenge. Rather than mandating or restricting specific technologies, it takes a critical first step toward **arming Maine with reliable data** about how classroom technologies are currently being used, monitored and governed across the state.

The resolve directs the **Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI)** to gather information on local standards for classroom technology use, including time spent on devices per grade and per subject, safety practices, data privacy protections, system configurations, compliance measures and concerns identified by educators and administrators. Because

technology standards and procurement decisions are largely matters of local control, Maine currently lacks a comprehensive, statewide picture of whether protections are adequate or consistent. This study will provide that snapshot.

The timing of this work is essential. Classroom technology has been part of Maine public schools for decades, but the current pressure from large technology companies to adopt increasingly complex and AI-driven tools is overwhelming some districts. This resolve aligns with the work being undertaken by the Legislature's **AI Task Force** and will complement—not duplicate—that work by grounding broader policy discussions in the realities of Maine classrooms.

This resolve requires a report back to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee in **December 2026**, ensuring that the committee is prepared for any necessary legislation in the next long session. The study will be conducted as part of MEPRI's existing contractual work with the committee.

LD 2052 does not assume technology is inherently good or inherently harmful. Instead, it affirms that innovation in education must be matched by responsibility, transparency and a commitment to student well-being. I respectfully urge the committee to support Resolve 2052.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.