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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 1715

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS PROHIBITING TEACHERS, EMPLOYEES AND OTHER OFFICIALS FROM ENGAGING IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH STUDENTS

Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. I am Steven Bailey, executive director of Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association in support of L.D. 1715.

As school leaders we are responsible for running school systems in accordance with public education law and keeping students safe. This proposal supports that responsibility.

This proposed legislation appears designed to make it easier to charge substitutes, former teachers, coaches and others in a position of oversight in the school with a sex crime if they have sexual contact with a student, using their knowledge of the student to engage in such behavior.

We believe this proposal affords greater protection to students and adds appropriate consequences for unacceptable behavior. We urge its passage.