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Testimony of Representative Michael Brennan Introducing LD 277, "An Act To Discontinue the Use of the SAT in Maine Schools" March 3, 2021

Good afternoon Senator Daughtry and fellow members of the Education and Cultural affairs Committee. I am Michael Brennan and I represent District 36 which is part of Portland. I am pleased to introduce LD 277, "An Act To Discontinue the Use of the SAT in Maine Schools" for your consideration.

This bill would prevent the use of the SAT in Maine for assessment purposes. Furthermore, the bill directs the Department of Education (DOE) to develop an alternative method of assessing student performance.

According to the National Center for Fair and Open Testing, the SAT "consistently under-predicts the performance of females in college and over-predicts the performance of males...imposes an unfair burden on students for whom English is not the first language...and that African American, Latino, new Asian immigrant, and many other minority test-takers score significantly lower than white students."

In addition, the SAT also discriminates based on income. In fact, a 2013 paper titled, "Race, Poverty and SAT Scores," researchers Ezekiel J. Dixon-Roman from the University of Pennsylvania and John J. McArdle from the University of Southern California found that wealthy students earn higher SAT scores compared to their low-income peers and that the difference in SAT scores between high- and low-income students was twice as large among black students compared to white students.

Equally important, the SAT fails to measure, and disregards, certain skills students have acquired that may have more of an impact on their ability to succeed in college. For all of the above reasons, universities and colleges across the country and in Maine have abandoned the use of the SAT for admission purposes.

The impact and usefulness of standardized testing has always been open to vigorous debate. However, recent research demonstrates that the SAT discriminates in several

different ways and is not an appropriate tool to assess student academic performance in Maine.

I hope you will join me in passing this bill and supporting efforts to find more research-based and progressive assessment methods to utilize in our public schools.

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