



Maine School Superintendents Association



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 362

**RESOLVE, TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO FORM A
FAMILY INCOME DATA COLLECTION WORKING GROUP**

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Eileen King, executive director of the Maine School Superintendents Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committee of the Maine School Superintendents Association in support of L.D. 362.

This bill appears predicated on the national and state movements to make all school breakfast and lunch programs free. Under that scenario there would be no need to have free and reduced lunch forms filled out. The problem is the information on those forms is used not just for food programs, but to create data that helps schools qualify for other aid programs. The data also is important when we look at the connection between poverty and student achievement and offer support to address achievement gaps.

This resolve would put together a working group to look at the best and least intrusive way to get the information, if as anticipated the forms related to free-and-reduced lunch permanently go away.

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