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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 144

### AN ACT TO FUND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTERS AND REGIONS TO BOLSTER MAINE'S FUTURE WORKFORCE

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Eileen King, deputy 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. 144.

We want to thank Speaker Fecteau for being so tenacious in his efforts to get a bond bill passed that could make a significant difference in upgrading CTE facilities and equipment. Before COVID shut down the legislature in March of 2020, he introduced this bill that along with other efforts put a spotlight on the critical need for upgrades to facilities and equipment at our state's 19 CTE Center and Regional facilities.

We do have one question, which is why the funding source referenced is the Maine Government Facilities Authority?

Gov. Janet Mills also talked about the need for a "Back to Work" bond of \$25 million in her State of the Budget address last month to provide equipment to train students in high-growth industries. She described it as a collaboration between CTEs and Community Colleges.

Whatever ultimately emerges as the bond plan, we appreciate the importance of CTE being recognized as an integral part of supporting Maine's future workforce and economy.