

# MADSEC

## Maine Administrators of Services for Children with



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March 22, 2021

To: Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee

My name is Jill Adams and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities, MADSEC. MADSEC is a membership association for the special education administrators across the state of Maine

MADSEC is offering testimony neither for nor against LD 350,

An understanding of autism spectrum disorder is definitely important for a special educator as well as an understanding of other disabilities. Most important, is how the disability affects the student's academic learning and functional skills, which is used to determine appropriate programming to meet the student's needs.

MADSEC is not clear from the bill which endorsements this change would effect. There are several special education endorsements with a variety of age levels. It would be important to add this clarity.

MADSEC understands that the Maine State Board of Education is currently working on changes and updates to all the certification rules, Chapter 115, Part I and II which will be brought to the legislature as it is a major and substantive rule. We believe that this would be the place to address these concerns not through statute.

MADSEC believes that any language about course requirements for specific endorsements, such as special education certification, should be in Certification Rule, Chapter 115. If this change that is being proposed by LD 350 is adopted in the Maine Education Statute, 20-A, it creates a situation where if there are necessary changes to the special education certification at a later date much more difficult as both statute and rule would need to be changed.