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## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 552

### AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM PROCESS

Senator Rafferty, 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 opposition to L.D. 552.

In a perfect world there would be agreement among all parties about what is best for a child in the school setting. That is not always the case, of course, and ultimately it is the school's responsibility to make a decision about the appropriate course of action.

To do otherwise would leave the child in limbo when it comes to services, or worse, receiving services that no longer are appropriate.

That is a very real possibility under L.D. 552 and violates the most basic premise of "first, do no harm."

We also are worried about the bill expanding participation in the IEP team meeting by allowing any member of the team to request the presence of the child's teachers or the educational technicians. Law already requires a special educator and a regular teacher of the child be in attendance, but the bill opens that up to others.

As administrators, working in concert with building principals, we have to make sure staff are where they need to be to keep all students safe and supervised. This bill would prevent us from meeting that obligation.

We also have reviewed the amendment from the sponsor and still have these concerns.