

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 1072

AN ACT REGARDING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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 support of L.D. 1072.

This proposal would give students an opportunity to meet Maine's high school diploma standards and also earn Community College credit. There are models for this already in existence – Bridge Year is an example.

Bridge Year allows CTE students enrolled in the United Technology Center in Bangor to take college-level courses taught at UTC. It appears this bill would have students attend the Community College.

Coordinating schedules, as the bill references, would be key to making this work. Funding would come from the Aspirations Program, which received \$2.5 million in the supplemental budget in addition to its \$4 million base.

Early college, in whatever way it is delivered, has the benefit of a lower cost to the students, while at the same time growing the state's workforce in critical areas.