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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 961

### AN ACT TO PROVIDE EQUITY IN ACCESS TO APPLICATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM AND SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Steven Bailey, 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. 961.

Our associations support this bill and believe it finishes the work started in the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature through L.D. 701. That bill required the creation of the Internet-based application and making it available to all public schools.

L.D. 961 enhances outreach by making the application available on the Department of Education's website and allows schools to make it available on their sites as well. It also supports creation of the application in various languages. And, it continues to require the use of paper applications by districts to accommodate families that may not have access online.

We did have one question around the language in the bill that prohibits the DOE from being able to see the data being submitted via Internet applications. We are looking for the rationale.