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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1186

AN ACT TO REQUIRE A COURSE REGARDING THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND THE CONSTITUTION OF MAINE TO BE TAUGHT TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

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. 1186.

This bill would be a curriculum mandate on schools, and we oppose mandates. We certainly support teaching our students to be informed citizens with an understanding of how government works at all levels.

As referenced in a previous bill, the state sets the standards and statute requires school boards to adopt courses of study that align with those standards articulated in the Learning Results.

The Maine Learning Result standards on Civics and Government require the following.

“Students will learn the constitutional principles and the democratic foundations of national, state, and local systems and institutions. Further, students will learn how to exercise the rights and responsibilities of participation in civic life and to analyze and evaluate public policies. This understanding entails insight into political power, how it is distributed and expressed, the types and purposes of governments, and their relationships with the governed.”

You can see the full description on Civics and Government standards at:

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/kids/mockelection/learningresults.html>.