

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1002

### AN ACT TO REQUIRE A LUNCH PERIOD OF AT LEAST 30 MINUTES FOR STUDENTS AND REDUCE FOOD WASTE

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 opposition to L.D. 1002.

A survey conducted by MSSA on the length of lunch periods showed that on average students have between 20 and 25 minutes for lunch each day. When asked what the challenges would be to a mandated lunch period, they shared the following responses:

**Space:** Many of our schools do not have a designated cafeteria. Many “lunchrooms” are also used for physical education, chorus, band, and drama classes. Extending the lunch period would decrease time for these other important curricular activities.

**Loss of Instructional Time:** Accommodating several 30-minute lunch periods would result in the loss of instructional time.

**Staffing Concerns:** Some reported that due to contractual agreements a 30-minute lunch period would be impossible to support unless more staff was hired.

**Time:** Some districts reported that they would have to start serving lunch at 9:45 in the morning to accommodate the 30-minute requirement in order to feed all of their students.