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TESTIMONY REGARDING

L.D. 1315

AN ACT TO REQUIRE INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF NALOXONE HYDROCHLORIDE

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, regarding L.D. 1315 – MSBA is neither for nor against and MSSA is opposed.

The Maine School Superintendents Association are opposed to this bill because of the language in requiring “appropriate assistance to an overdose victim,” including administration of Naloxone.

Superintendents support having access to Naloxone in spray form in schools, but do not support having students trained to administer an opioid antidote unless the students choose to receive that training; and, depending on their age, there is parent permission. School Boards support efforts to save a life in our schools in the case of a drug overdose, but are concerned about the administration of Naloxone by students.

The impact on a student who attempts to save a fellow-student’s life and fails could be devastating. It also is unclear how the student would get the antidote, since typically it would be stored in the nurse’s office.

We also oppose curriculum mandates. Instructional programs on the use and misuse of drugs are already part of the Maine Learning Results. Programs around the use and misuse of controlled substances are often included in the health curriculum, and that training should be age-appropriate and include warnings of what happens when the drug is abused.