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## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1284

### AN ACT TO REQUIRE PERSONAL FINANCE TO BE TAUGHT AS A SEPARATE COURSE TO OBTAIN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

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. 1284.

High School diploma standards are outlined in 20-A, section 4722, and personal finance already is required. This bill would make that a stand-alone course, and we acknowledge the sponsor's passion around this topic.

Personal finance is referenced in 20-A, Section 254, number 13, that tasks the commissioner of education with developing an integrated model for instruction in personal finance that may be used at the high school level. Our concern has been and remains that curriculum should not be mandated.

School Boards are charged with adopting the courses of study that align with the system of Learning Results. That is a local decision and should remain so.

Additional courses beyond the core curriculum are and have to remain the purview of the School Board. If not, we lose control over the school day and also risk losing control over what we are teaching.