

REVISED TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

L.D. 254

AN ACT TO UPDATE THE SEX EDUCATION AND CONSENT CURRICULUM

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Steven Bailey, executive director for Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association neither for nor against L.D. 254.

The association committees were pleased to see that this bill has been revised and the proposed curriculum changes stripped from the bill. We are in agreement that curriculum as outlined by standards within the System of Learning Results is accurate, sufficient and not in need of change. The committees also are in support of items #1 and #3 within Senator Daughtry's amendment to L.D. 254, though the amount in item #3 was questioned as to whether the amount would be sufficient for what was being recommended. Filling the funding gap for the current 2 FTE staff, and developing and disseminating sexual health curricula and resources are both needs the associations see that would immediately benefit local districts, staff and students.

Where the associations have difficulty are the areas that would require new money for additional staff (3 FTE in provision #2) and the additional funds that would connect with community agencies for the development and delivery of some of these resources. Local school districts do not have control over messaging and resources developed and provided by these outside agencies. It is felt that these should be locally determined decisions and connections made by the school district.

Additionally, questions arose as to where these funds would come from. With basic student data not able to be shared with districts due to what has been stated as capacity issues, when new priorities and new positions take precedence over existing needs, questions are raised as to the best use of funds. While the legislature can determine the use of funds, if new funds need to be raised or repositioned for this purpose, it was clear that districts did not want these funds reducing GPA.

For the reasons listed in the prior two paragraphs, MSBA and MSSA legislative committees cannot support the entire amendment, and thus submit this testimony of neither for nor against L.D. 254.