



49 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330  
Telephone: (207) 622-3473 Fax: (207) 626-2968  
Website: [www.msmaweb.com](http://www.msmaweb.com)



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 2042

### AN ACT TO UPDATE THE LAWS GOVERNING EDUCATION IN THE UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Victoria Wallack, Director of Communications and Government Liaison at Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association in support of L.D. 2042.

This bill simply levels the playing field for students living in the Unorganized Territory as compared to districts outside of the territory.

It gives the Commissioner of Education the authority to pay parents for transporting students. Due to the size of the Unorganized Territories and the distance to schools, having parents transport their children is sometimes the only way the students can get to school. The current law says the Commissioner cannot reimburse parents for those costs.

Given the ongoing bus driver shortage, parents driving their students to school has become more necessary than ever.

The bill also updates language around compulsory attendance and truancy which aligns with the attendance and truancy standards for all Maine students. We urge its passage.