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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

L.D. 979

AN ACT TO EXPAND MAINE'S SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, I am Victoria Wallack, Communication and Government Relations Director for 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. 979.

This is a recurring appropriation that our associations have consistently supported because these health centers are so essential to our students.

They perform a vital function to keep students safe and healthy, and in more rural parts of the state are a primary source for preventive care and treatment.

Their services include suicide prevention and mental health counseling; informed discussion about sexual activity; annual checkups; addiction counseling; detection of domestic abuse; proper treatment of sports injuries; early detection of bullying and more. In this year of the pandemic and the isolation it imposed, these services are needed more than ever before.