



State of Maine
131st Maine Senate
Senate Republican Office

PRESS BRIEFING – ISSUES AFFECTING SCHOOL–STUDENT SAFETY
MARCH 21, 2023 – AFTER SESSION (approximately 12:30 p.m.)
WELCOME CENTER/PRESS ROOM

What: Issues affecting the Safety of Students and Schools
Who: Senators Trey Stewart, Marianne Moore, and James Libby

Introduction & Background

Infrastructure and resource assessment of school facilities (Sen. Stewart)

Policy Considerations:

- Conduct a forensic audit/gap assessment of current school facilities and mental health services
- Assess current facilities to determine lack of modern safety technology, including mantrap or interlocking doors, and require new builds and renovations to include such technology
- Develop more creative ways and holistic approaches to address school safety
- Aid rural districts with resources for school resource officers (SROs)

School student mental health/substance abuse resources (Sen. Moore)

Policy Considerations:

- Increase and/or improve direct mental health and substance abuse training and resources in public schools to prevent incidents from occurring within the district
- Implement a comprehensive approach that identifies high-risk individuals using threat assessment techniques and intervene/refer those individuals to appropriate services

Focus the Department of Education on the right issues (Sen. Libby)

Policy Considerations:

- Establish a government task force or standing committee to make recommendations with input from experts in law enforcement, public safety, mental health, and public education to continuously assist districts, rather than woke ideology as the primary focus of the DOE

Closing remarks, Q/A