

**MAINE  
PRINCIPALS'  
ASSOCIATION**



50 Industrial Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
(207) 622-0217

Fax: (207) 622-1513  
Email: [mpa@mpa.cc](mailto:mpa@mpa.cc)

Websites:  
<https://mpaprof.org>  
<https://mpa.cc>

**Lori Smail**  
Winthrop Middle  
School  
President

**Mary Nadeau**  
Nokomis Regional High  
School  
President-elect

**Michael R. Burnham**  
Executive Director  
Interscholastic Division

**Holly D. Blair**  
Executive Director  
Professional Division

**Michael G. Bisson**  
Assistant Director

*MPA is an Equal  
Opportunity Organization*

**TO: Committee on Judiciary**  
**FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee**  
**RE: In Opposition of LD 870: An Act to Strengthen Freedom of  
Speech Protections by Extending Laws Against Public  
Participation**  
**DATE: April 3, 2023**

Senator Carney, Representative Moonan, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Dr. Holly Blair, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is in opposition to LD 870. "Public Interest" is subjective. If a person stands up in a public meeting and starts to harass, intimidate, or berate a person and infringing on their rights, this bill will not stop this from occurring under the guise of "public interest." Passing this bill protects those who are offensive and harassing from the possibility of being sued, which also infringes on the rights of those being attacked. There is a chain of command if someone has a problem with an issue of "public interest" in order to address the concerns. A public forum is not the place to air out these issues.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass LD 870.