MAINE

PRINCIPALS'

ASSOCIATION



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MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization

TO:

Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

FROM:

Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee

RE:

Neither For Nor Against LD 1333: An Act to Protect Children by Modernizing Internet and Digital Media

Filtering Requirements for Education

DATE:

April 13, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dr. Holly Blair, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 700 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals, CTE directors and assistant directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against the LD 1333. We support keeping students safe by making sure that there are firewalls and security measures in place when it comes to filters on the internet while at school.

Our concern with this bill is the funding for additional filters. It is already a challenge to stay on top of students who are already two steps ahead of us in the world of technology. We are concerned with additional staff and resources who will be responsible for the monitoring these additional filters and firewalls.

There are local policies in place to address this bill. There is no need for further legislation. For these reasons, the MPA is neither for nor against LD 1333.