

**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: In Opposition of 1557: An Act to Increase and Enhance
School Safety by Allowing Individuals with Concealed
Carry Permits to Possess Handguns on School Property**
DATE: April 26, 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. We represent more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee unanimously opposes LD 518. We want to be very clear that we believe that all schools should have a trained School Resource Officer. As law enforcement, they alone are allowed to carry firearms in schools.

We are strongly opposed to having anyone with a handgun in our schools – regardless of whether they have a concealed carry permit. This would violate the Guns Free Zone Act of 1994.

While school leaders will do whatever they can to keep students and staff safe, allowing those who have a concealed permit to bring a gun into school is not the way to keep them safe. The MPA urges the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1557.