

**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 1526: An Act to Provide Grants
to Support Reading Proficiency in Schools**
DATE: May 2, 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 800 PreK-12 principals, assistant principals, CTE directors and assistant directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 1526. We fully support having the ability to better serve populations of students with identified reading proficiency achievement gaps for all students, especially for economically disadvantaged students and racial and ethnic populations in the area of reading.

The concerns we have with the bill are focused on the discrepancy between those districts who have a hired grant writer and those that do not. This bill is a grant-based source of income. Those that have a grant writer may have a greater chance of receiving these funds than those that do not.

Finally our concern is the significant amount of money that is being slated to come from the general funds. \$2,000,000 will cause a hardship for all schools in order to fund a grant-based process and could potentially take away desperately needed funds from schools who have a higher need than those who may qualify for the grant.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 1526.