

# MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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**TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs**  
**FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee**  
**RE: In Support of LD 98: An Act to Include School  
Counselors in the Educators for Maine Program**  
**DATE: February 26, 2025**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, 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, and athletic directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee unanimously supports the passing of LD 98. School counselors play a significant role in the education of Maine students. As with most positions in education, there is a significant shortage of school counselors in Maine schools. The Educators for Maine Program is available for teachers entering the profession and helps alleviate some of the financial burden put on them from their higher education. This program allows for some financial aid forgiveness and could encourage people interested to enter into the field of school counseling.

The majority of school counselors in Maine are on a teacher's contract. We believe that anyone who is on the same bargaining agreement as teachers should have access to the same programs to encourage those to enter the profession.

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 98.