

# 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>

**Kimberly Liscomb**  
Cony Middle/High  
School  
President

**Stephen Bell**  
Dexter 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:** Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
**FROM:** Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee  
**RE:** In Opposition of LD 513: An Act to Allow the Spouse of a School Board Member to Serve as a Stipend Employee Within the School Board's Jurisdiction  
**DATE:** March 13, 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 is in opposition to LD 513. While this bill aims to require school boards to create policies regarding nepotism, it is unnecessary and could lead to unintended consequences that hinder local school operations.

Maine is a local control state, meaning that school boards already have the authority to establish policies that best serve their communities, including those related to hiring practices and potential conflicts of interest. LD 513 would impose a legislative mandate on a process that school boards are fully capable of managing on their own. If a district determines that a nepotism policy is needed, they can implement one without additional state intervention.

Additionally, local school boards currently have the discretion to allow spouses of board members to serve in stipend positions to help fill essential roles. In many communities, particularly rural areas, finding qualified individuals to take on these roles can be challenging. This flexibility allows districts to ensure that critical positions—such as coaching, substitute teaching, or extracurricular program support—are filled, benefiting students and schools alike.

While concerns about conflicts of interest are valid, school boards are already accountable to their communities and can take steps to address such concerns through existing transparency and governance measures. Adding an unnecessary legislative requirement only burdens local districts with additional bureaucracy without solving a real problem.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose LD 513 and allow school boards to continue managing their own hiring policies as they see fit.