

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee

RE: In Opposition of LD 420: An Act to Fund the Carleton Project to Provide Additional Access to a Nontraditional Secondary School

DATE: March 12, 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 Maine Principals' Association (MPA) opposes LD 420, as it would direct public school funds toward a private institution. The Carleton Project, a private school in Houlton, Maine, serves a small population of students, and while we acknowledge that this bill aims to expand programming for students who might otherwise attend public school, we firmly believe that public education funds should remain within the public school system.

For these reasons, the MPA Legislative Committee strongly urges the Committee to vote **Ought Not to Pass** on LD 420.