

MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
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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 LD 282: An Act to Raise the Limit on the
Total Number of Public Charter Schools**
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) Legislative Committee opposes LD 282. Currently, Maine law limits the number of public charter schools to no more than ten at any given time. When students attend a public charter school instead of their local public school, their home districts are required to allocate funds to the charter school. This further strains the already limited resources needed to support public schools effectively.

LD 282 proposes that "any time the cap is reached, the cap increases by one." In effect, this would eliminate the cap entirely, allowing for an unlimited number of public charter schools. Such a policy would lead to a continuous diversion of students and funding away from local public schools, further undermining their ability to provide quality education to all students.

For these reasons, the MPA strongly urges the Committee to oppose LD 282.