

**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 437: An Act Directing the
Department of Education to Develop Pilot Programs to
Place Child Care Facilities in Selected School
Administrative Units**
DATE: March 19, 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 neither for nor against LD 437. We do understand the concept of the bill and believe that the bill has good intentions, and we fully appreciate the desire to meet the need of additional childcare for school staff, and for low-income households. We also appreciate the bill offering this to 8 pilot schools throughout Maine.

Our concerns are the same as they were in the 131st when a similar bill was presented. Currently many schools do not have staff or space to take care of the students that are enrolled in our schools, let alone house a childcare center. If a school does have the space, we are concerned with the necessary funds to cover the cost that schools will have to incur to resize the classrooms to meet the safety requirements set by the state. Schools are having a difficult time trying to meet the needs of bringing in a 3-year-old pre-k program and will struggle further to add a childcare room in the school. We are afraid that this will cause schools to not meet the needs of the pk-12 students that are currently enrolled in their districts.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 437.