

**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 384: An Act to Prevent Student Homelessness
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 384. We fully believe that this bill has good intentions, and we applaud the effort to make it so that no student is homeless.

Our concerns revolve around the DOE appointed person who will oversee identifying those families who may experience homelessness in the future. There are no identified measures that the educational agency liaison will have to follow other than reaching out to the local school districts who will then have to take on this added responsibility. Our other concern is the \$750/student/family. If a family were on the brink of becoming homeless, we are afraid that \$750 will not be enough to make it so that that student remains housed.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 384.