

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 927: An Act to Require Chaplains in School Administrative Units
DATE: March 26, 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 of LD 927. This bill raises serious concerns regarding the separation of church and state and the potential complications of introducing religious representatives into public schools.

Public schools serve students and families from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. Requiring chaplains in schools raises fundamental questions: What denomination or faith tradition would these chaplains represent? How would schools accommodate students from different religious beliefs—or those who do not practice a religion at all? Rather than fostering inclusivity, this mandate could create division and conflicts within school communities.

The principle of separation of church and state is a cornerstone of our Constitution and public education system. Schools should remain neutral spaces where all students feel welcome, regardless of their faith or belief system. If students need spiritual guidance, their families and faith communities—not public schools—should provide those resources.

Religion has an important place in many people's lives, but public schools must remain focused on education, not religious affiliation. For these reasons, we urge you to oppose LD 927 and ensure that public schools remain inclusive environments free from religious mandates.