

**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: In Opposition of LD 361: An Act to Support the Francis Malcom Science Center
DATE: March 27, 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 to LD 361. We do recognize the significant impact that the Francis Malcom Science Center has on most if not all schools in Aroostook County. The hands-on experiences and the planetarium allow for students in some of our most remote areas in Maine access to high-quality science learning opportunities.

The MPA is in opposition to LD 361 mostly due to the concerns around the amount of money that is needed to meet the requirements set by this bill. \$200,000 from the general budget will take away from most of the other districts in the state who will not access the science center. There are grant opportunities which could fund the science center and continue the great learning environment for students in Aroostook County. Where they could access these grant funds to meet the needs of the Francis Malcom Science Center, we urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass LD 361 which will support the science center without taking away from the rest of the state.