

**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 211: An Act to Make School Safer
for Students with Epilepsy and Other Seizure Disorders
by Requiring Seizure Action Plans and Training in
Schools**
DATE: March 31, 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 211. Please know that we fully recognize the significant importance of being knowledgeable on best practices on helping students who have epilepsy. We are in opposition because there is a way for this training to take place for these students. All students with any medical condition have a right to have a 504 plan which will ensure the safety of that individual student, including a seizure plan. The 504 is a legal document which schools have to follow with fidelity. This training will be specific to the student on the procedures and medicine that are necessary for that student. Should the 504 plan have a requirement for training, this training would include those teachers and staff who work with the students who have epilepsy.

We are concerned with the mandate that there be one person in the district who has met the training requirements necessary to administer rescue medicine. Not every school has a school nurse which would then make a non-medical person responsible for the

administration of medicine. Not all schools have students who have epilepsy.

The bill also requires annual training for all staff and students at each grade level. Again, we are not lessening the significance of students who have epilepsy, but rather noting that there are many significant medical conditions of equal significance. We cannot have mandated annual training on every medical condition. We also cannot offer programming for students at each grade level for each medical condition. This bill would require this training in every school regardless of having a student who may or may not have epilepsy.

We could support this bill should the verbiage of the bill be changed from all schools to “those schools, staff, and students who work with a student(s) who have epilepsy,” rather than mandate training for all schools, staff, and students in Maine.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass LD 211.