

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Opposition of LD 1395: An Act Regarding Human Trafficking Prevention Instruction and Dissemination of and Access to Obscene Material in Schools
DATE: April 15, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, 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 800 PreK-12 principals, assistant principals, CTE Directors and Assistant Directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The Maine Principals' Association's Legislative Committee is fully committed to the safety and well-being of all students. We recognize the critical importance of educating young people about the dangers of human trafficking and child exploitation. These are serious issues that Maine's public schools address through existing, well-established instructional resources and practices. Given the availability of such resources, we question the necessity of LD 1395.

While we support the stated intent of strengthening instruction on human trafficking prevention, LD 1395 includes additional provisions that raise significant concerns. Specifically, this bill proposes new restrictions on curriculum and educational materials that could lead to unnecessary censorship. Maine's public schools already operate under transparent, locally governed processes for reviewing curriculum and instructional content. These processes involve community input and are ultimately overseen by locally elected school boards, ensuring that materials reflect both educational standards and community values.

LD 1395 also seeks to eliminate a long-standing exemption for the "noncommercial distribution or exhibition for purely educational purposes" in public schools—an exemption that would remain in place for private schools and other educational entities. This creates an inequitable standard and raises serious questions about fairness and consistency in how educational institutions are treated under the law.

Moreover, the bill does not provide a clear definition of "obscene material." This lack of clarity may lead to confusion, community-level conflict, and potential litigation. It could also result in the exclusion of literature-based, historically significant, and age-appropriate materials that are essential to a comprehensive education. The vague language and broad scope of the bill risk unintended consequences that could undermine the quality and integrity of public education in Maine.

For these reasons, the Maine Principals' Association respectfully opposes LD 1395 and urges the Committee to vote *Ought Not to Pass*.