

MAINE

PRINCIPALS'

ASSOCIATION



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee

**RE: In Neither For Nor Against LD 1234: An Act to Ban Cellular
Telephones from Public School Classrooms**

DATE: April 16, 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 1234. There are school districts in Maine that have already adopted policies restricting or banning the use of cell phones in classrooms and have reported positive outcomes. We recognize and support the science behind limiting cell phone use during instructional time, particularly around reducing distractions and improving focus and learning.

This legislation could be helpful for districts that wish to implement a ban but are struggling to get buy-in from students, parents, or staff. Having a statewide policy may make it easier for some districts to enforce such a rule consistently.

However, it's important to remember that Maine is a local control state. Some schools have intentionally integrated cell phone use into their instructional practices and use them as learning tools. This bill, as written, would remove that local flexibility and mandate a one-size-fits-all policy, even in cases where cell phone use may be contributing positively to student learning.

For these reasons, the MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 1234.