

MAINE

PRINCIPALS'

ASSOCIATION



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Opportunity Organization*

TO: Committee Education and Cultural Affairs

FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee

**RE: In Support of LD 170: Resolve, Establishing a Pilot
Program to Reduce Personal Electronic Device
Distractions During the School Day**

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 supports the passing of LD 170. Research is beginning to demonstrate that there have been positive results from instituting "Cell Phone," or "Electronic Device" Free policies. There are schools in Maine who are also experiencing this as well. There are also many schools in Maine where electronic devices are not a hindrance to student learning. They do not have a problem with the devices and have no desire to institute such a policy.

LD 170 allows for funding to be made possible for those schools who want to move toward being "Cell Phone" Free but do not have the money to purchase the equipment necessary to make this possible and keep everyone's personal property safe.

Maine is a local control state, and this bill allows for those schools who are not experiencing negative effects from these devices to continue to allow for students to have them on their person while helping those schools who need the financial support to implement such policies.

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 170.