

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization*

TO: Committee on Transportation
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
**RE: Neither For Nor Against LD 329: An Act to Increase the
Fine for Passing a Stopped School Bus**
DATE: April 22, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and distinguished members of the Committee on Transportation. 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 329. Student safety is of the utmost importance and the MPA will support any measure to keep students safe. We are in hopes that increasing the fine from \$200 to \$1000 may deter some people from passing a stopped school bus. There is a possibility that this information will spread quickly and cause some drivers to think twice before they pass.

The MPA are not transportation experts. We do not know of the actual numbers of people who have been fined \$250 who are repeat offenders. If they are, and they know they will be fined again, will increasing the fine truly deter them from passing a stopped school bus?

While we do want to improve student safety, we do not know if increasing the fine will meet the purpose of this bill. For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 329.

Please note that this testimony was submitted based off of the original language of the bill and not additional amendments that may be presented.