

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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TO: Committee on Health and Human Services
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Opposition of LD 1716: An Act to Require Family Life
Education to Include a Human Growth and Development
Curriculum
DATE: April 28, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Health and Human Services Committee. 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 Maine Principals' Association's Legislative Committee respectfully opposes LD 1716. While we fully recognize and agree that human growth and development is an important topic for students, we have several significant concerns with the approach outlined in this bill.

Like all curriculum-related matters, there is an established process for determining what should be included in the Maine Learning Results. As a local control state, Maine entrusts communities to work with their educators and school boards to decide how best to present sensitive topics, including human growth and development, in a way that reflects the values and needs of their students and families. This bill would remove that important local discretion.

Additionally, LD 1716 mandates the use of a video depicting all stages of human development—from fertilization through every stage of fetal development to birth. Requiring a specific instructional method for such a sensitive subject is deeply concerning, particularly when different communities may have different perspectives on how best to educate students about human development in an age-appropriate and culturally sensitive manner.

We are especially troubled by the provision that would allow civil suits to be brought against school districts that do not comply with the requirements of this bill. This opens districts up to significant financial and legal risks based on decisions that have traditionally and appropriately been made at the local level.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to oppose LD 1716.

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