

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: Neither For Nor Against LD 1689: An Act to Implement the
Recommendations of the Commission to Study Expansion of
Public Preschool and Early Care and Education
DATE: May 1, 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 Maine Principals' Association's Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 1689. We acknowledge that not every school district in Maine currently has access to public preschool, and we are encouraged to see action being taken based on prior studies and recommendations. Expanding early childhood education opportunities is critically important for Maine's students, and we support efforts to improve access across the state.

However, we have significant concerns regarding the financial implications of this bill. LD 1689 proposes substantial funding commitments, including \$4 million for infrastructure and \$2.4 million to the Department of Education to fund additional staffing, study the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) formula, address certification and rulemaking, and develop yet another report by December.

While we recognize the importance of thoughtful planning, this represents a considerable investment of public funds for further study and administrative expansion, rather than directly increasing access to high-quality preschool programming. We urge the Committee to carefully weigh the benefits of the proposed expenditures against the immediate needs of schools and communities striving to provide early learning opportunities today.

For these reasons, the MPA Legislative Committee takes a position of Neither For Nor Against LD 1689, while respectfully raising these concerns for the Committee's consideration.