

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



50 Industrial Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330
(207) 622-0217

Email: mpa@mpa.cc

Websites:
<https://mpaprof.org>
<https://mpa.cc>

Kimberly Liscomb
Cony Middle/High
School
President

Stephen Bell
Dexter Regional High
School
President-elect

Michael R. Burnham
Executive Director
Interscholastic Division

Holly D. Blair
Executive Director
Professional Division

Michael G. Bisson
Assistant Director

MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization

TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Opposition of LD 525: An Act to Strengthen Maine Citizens' Second Amendment Rights by Allowing the Discharge of Firearms on Private Property That is Within 500 Feet of School Property in Certain Circumstances
DATE: May 7, 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 in opposition to LD 525. This bill, which would allow individuals who own property within 500 feet of a school to discharge firearms on their property under "certain circumstances," poses a significant risk to school safety and fails to provide clear guidelines for its implementation.

The safety and security of students, teachers, and school staff must be a top priority. Allowing firearms to be discharged in close proximity to a school creates unnecessary dangers, increases the potential for accidents, and places an additional burden on law enforcement and school officials to determine whether a discharge is justified. While we recognize the right of property owners to defend themselves, LD 525 lacks a clear definition of the "certain circumstances" under which firearm use would be permitted. This ambiguity raises serious concerns about how the law would be interpreted and enforced.

Furthermore, property owners who purchased land near a school did so with the understanding that their property was within 500 feet of an educational institution. Existing laws restricting firearm discharge near schools serve an important purpose in maintaining a safe learning environment. Changing these protections could lead to increased risks for students and staff, as well as confusion about where and when firearms can legally be discharged.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose LD 525 and uphold the necessary safety measures that protect our schools and communities.

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