

MAINE

PRINCIPALS'

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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Opposition of LD 885: An Act to Allow Certain Persons with a Permit to Carry Concealed Handguns to Possess or Discharge a Firearm on School Property
DATE: May 7, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs 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 MPA Legislative Committee is in strong opposition of LD 885. This bill, which would allow certain individuals with concealed carry permits to possess and even discharge firearms on school property, is a dangerous step in the wrong direction.

Current laws rightly prohibit firearms on school grounds because the presence of weapons in educational spaces increases risks rather than reducing them. Allowing firearms in schools, even in limited circumstances, fundamentally threatens the safety of students, teachers, and staff.

The presence of guns in schools introduces the potential for accidents, misuse, or tragic escalations of conflict. Law enforcement officers undergo extensive training to handle high-pressure situations; concealed carry permit holders do not receive the same level of training. Introducing more firearms into school environments increases the likelihood of unintended harm rather than improving security.

Furthermore, this bill contradicts the recommendations of school safety experts, educators, and law enforcement professionals, who emphasize that the best ways to prevent school violence are through strong security measures, mental health support, and threat assessment programs—not by introducing more guns into our classrooms.

We are seriously worried about the implications of LD 885 for school safety. Our children and educators deserve a learning environment free from the fear of gun violence. We urge you to reject this bill and instead focus on policies that genuinely protect students and staff.

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