

MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Opposition of LD 1881: An Act to Ensure the Rights of Parents of Minor Children in Education
DATE: May 9, 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 1881. While we appreciate the intent of this bill to affirm parental rights regarding their own child's education, we believe the provisions outlined in LD 1881 are unnecessary. The rights described in this bill already exist and are actively upheld in Maine's public schools.

Parents currently have the right to review curriculum materials and, when appropriate, may request that their child be excused from certain instructional content. These requests are typically handled through direct communication between the parent and the teacher, and reasonable accommodations are made for that individual student. This longstanding practice reflects the collaborative relationship schools maintain with families.

Furthermore, concerns that schools might withhold critical information from parents have already been addressed through existing policies and are reaffirmed in this bill. As such, LD 1881 does not introduce new protections or processes—it codifies what is already routine practice across the state.

For these reasons, we believe this legislation is redundant and could create unnecessary confusion or administrative burden without adding meaningful new supports for parents or students.

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