

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 2099: An Act to Amend Certain Eligibility Requirements for Secondary Student Receiving State Subsidies for Postsecondary Courses

DATE: January 28, 2026

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 neither for nor against the LD 2099. We appreciate the Legislature's continued focus on expanding access to postsecondary opportunities for Maine students while also being mindful of the state's fiscal responsibilities. We recognize and support the importance of managing the financial burden on state reimbursement when these costs are in addition to the customary and ongoing amounts appropriated for general purpose aid to local schools.

We also strongly value the ability for Maine schools to continue offering postsecondary courses that carry both high school and college credit. These opportunities not only support academic rigor and college readiness, but they also reduce the overall cost of higher education for families and help students make a smoother transition to postsecondary study.

At the same time, we offer several considerations for the Committee as you review LD 2099. First, we questioned the cost difference between courses offered through the public university system and those offered through the community college system. If such differences exist, could this allow greater flexibility or access to additional credits for students enrolling in lower-cost postsecondary institutions.

Most importantly, we are very concerned about the impact of any credit caps on rural schools and students. Many Maine schools serve rural communities where access to colleges and universities is limited. For many of these students, dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities represent their primary—or only—access to postsecondary coursework while in high school. Capping the number of credits students can access may unintentionally place rural students at a disadvantage compared to others in less rural areas.

We appreciate the intent behind LD 2099 and encourage continued discussion to ensure fiscal responsibility while preserving equitable access to postsecondary opportunities for all Maine students.

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