

MAINE

PRINCIPALS'

ASSOCIATION



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

Fax: (207) 622-1513
Email: mpa@mpa.cc

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

Lori Smail
Winthrop Middle
School
President

Mary Nadeau
Nokomis 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: Neither For Nor Against LD 1702: Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Improve the Educational Experience of People Who Are Resettling in Maine

DATE: May 9, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, 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 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 1702. We are very supportive of the intent of this bill and we want to support all of the students who are new to Maine. We want to improve the educational experience that they have and we believe that this commission will better help us understand what we need to do to make the educational experience better for our newest students.

Our concern with the bill is that there are very few educators on the commission. In order to improve an educational system, there needs to be educators on the decision making board. Our other primary concern is that this bill does not require an administrator to be a part of the planning. Changes need to be made to improve the experience for some of our newest students, however, they need an administrator's input in order to make sure that these changes are possible in our schools.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 1702.