

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization*

TO: Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Opposition of LD 678: An Act to Require Parental Approval for Public School Employees to Use a Name or Pronoun Other than the Child's Given Name or Pronoun Corresponding to the Gender on the Child's Birth Certificate
DATE: May 15, 2023

Senator Carney, Representative Moonan, and distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary 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 in opposition of LD 678 The Equality Act passed by Congress in 2021 prohibits “discrimination based on sex, sexual orientations, and gender identity in areas including education (in addition to others)” It also allows the Department of Justice to intervene in equal protection actions in federal court on account of sexual orientation or gender identity ” The Equality Act requires schools to refer to a student by their chosen gender or pronoun

In addition to this, if we were to use the name that is on their child's birth certification only, this eliminates the use of a chosen nickname for the child While the choice of the name is not a protected class, the use of a name designated at birth which is not used on a regular basis may cause the child to feel uncomfortable in school

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to pass LD 618