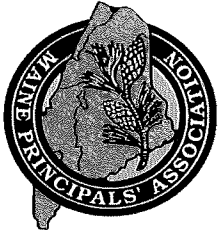


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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee

RE: In Opposition of LD 1898: An Act to Ensure That a Teacher Who Participates in the Prevention of Dangerous Behavior is Protected Under a Collective Bargaining Agreement

DATE: May 24, 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 in opposition of LD 1898. During the 129th Legislative Session, the MPA, MSMA, MEA, MADSEC worked in conjunction with the DOE and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee to create Unified Guidance on how to address "dangerous behavior" in schools. This Unified Guidance was agreed to by every educational association. Drummond Woodsum also created a version with steps on which schools should follow to make sure that these issues are properly addressed. Many school districts have implemented these guidelines and continue to review and follow them.

Since this time, the MPA has sent out the Unified Guidance at least once a year, if not more, and discussed the Guidance in the Great Beginnings and Mentor Programs, as well as at the two state conferences held each year.

We also argue that the protection of teachers who participate in the prevention of dangerous behavior is already provided for under existing laws and guidelines. We believe that LD 1898 is unnecessary and may already be in collective bargaining agreements.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass LD 1898.

*MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization*