

# MAINE

## PRINCIPALS'

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*MPA is an Equal  
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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 2089: An Act to Require Schools to Provide Instruction Regarding Prevention of the Illegal Use of Fentanyl and other Drugs and Drug Poisoning Awareness in Grades 6 to 12 and to Establish Drug Poisoning Awareness Week

**DATE:** January 24, 2024

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 2089. An unfortunate reality in schools throughout the United States is the continued use of drugs and illegal substances by students. The content in this bill is very important and we believe that students need this instruction.

Many schools in Maine currently have a drug prevention program that is taught at different grade levels. We encourage this bill to go through the Department of Education's review process in the Health Education and Physical Education standards in the Learning Results.

A significant concern that the MPA Legislative Committee shares is regarding the 10 hours of instruction per year for grades 6 – 12. This is excessive and will be very difficult for schools who do not have the staff available to teach this amount of time to each of the 7 grades.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 2089.