

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
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*MPA is an Equal
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TO: Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Support of LD 1817: An Act to Support Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program
DATE: May 10, 2023

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and distinguished members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. 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 supports the passing of LD 1817. As educators, we know that hands-on experiential learning is an exceptional way to learn. By offering an immersive outdoor education, overnight experience offered by the University of Maine Extension Cooperative, we believe that students will gain a tremendous amount of knowledge by learning outdoors.

Our only concern is with the grant process. This may put some schools and/or districts at a disadvantage. We would encourage an application process versus a potentially competitive grant process.

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote unanimously Ought to Pass on LD 1817.