

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
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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 127: Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program to Provide Grants for Professional Development in Computer Science Instruction
DATE: February 17, 2021

Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dr. Holly Couturier and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association's Professional Division, representing more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA supports the concept of LD 127. We believe that offering a grant program for those schools who desire additional professional development in Computer Instruction is an opportunity for schools to progress in this area without making it mandatory for all schools. Our concern with the bill is twofold. The first is the grant process itself. There are some districts in the state who have the ability and resources to write a grant and there are others who do not have the personnel readily available. This could potentially create further inequality among schools – especially if the grant is of a competitive nature. The other concern is regarding funding. Not knowing where the money is coming from, nor having an amount stated, funding for grant could potentially come from other lines in the education budget. If this is the case, we cannot support this bill.

For these reasons, the MPA is neither for nor against LD 127.