

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee

**RE: In Support of LD 84: An Act to Increase the State Share
of the Cost of Health Insurance of Retired Teachers**

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, representing more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee unanimously supports LD 84. Currently the state pays 45% of retired teachers' health insurance costs. This bill would require the state to pay 55% for group accident and sickness or health insurance after June 30, 2021. There are teachers who have retired but are not of age to collect Medicare. The additional funding to cover health insurance for our retired teachers is exceptionally difficult for many of our former educators. Having the state pay 55% of the insurance would greatly assist those in this situation.

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 84.