

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal
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TO: Committee on Labor and Housing
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Support of LD 52: An Act Regarding Collective Bargaining Negotiations by Public Employers of Teachers
DATE: March 29, 2021

Senator Rafferty, Representative Sylvester and distinguished members of the Committee on Labor and Housing. 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.

Prior to the closure of schools due to COVID-19, the Maine Principals' Association met with the Maine School Superintendents' Association, Maine School Boards Association, the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC), and the Maine Education Association to discuss collective bargaining by Public Employers of Teachers. As a collective group, we decided to provide a professional development opportunity for each of our members to strengthen the Meet and Consult process for districts in the state of Maine. We also agreed that after a district goes through the Meet and Consult process, but not negotiate with respect to educational policies, the two now permissive subjects of negotiation will be teacher preparation and planning time, and the transfer of teachers.

Because of the collaborative approach taken by each of these associations, the MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote unanimously Ought To Pass on LD 52.