

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization*

TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
**RE: Neither For Nor Against LD 880: An Act to Protect
School Employees from Workplace Bullying**
DATE: April 5, 2021

Senator Rafferty, 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 – Professional Division. We represent more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The Maine Principals' Association's Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 880. Workplace bullying is not supported or condoned by the MPA, however the Committee struggled with some of the language in the bill. The initial interpretation was the assumption that what was being asked from LD 880 is already covered by Harassment Policies in districts throughout the state so we did not see any need for an additional bill to protect educators. After talking with other educational associations, we found that the meaning behind this bill is to protect educators from students, not adults. We believe that should this bill pass, the action steps that the Bullying Law creates to protect students works for students, however and we are not sure that the same steps will have the same effect with adults.

For these reasons, the MPA is neither for nor against LD 880.