

**MAINE  
PRINCIPALS'  
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal  
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**TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs**

**FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee**

**RE: In Opposition of LD 429: An Act to Protect the Health of Students and Educators by Requiring the Establishment of Health and Safety Committees in School Administrative Units**

**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 MPA Legislative Committee unanimously opposes LD 429. This bill is COVID-19 specific and the majority, if not all the schools and districts around the state already have a committee to serve the purpose of protecting the health of students and educators. We are leery of the state mandating the make up of a specific committee for every district– especially when this list does not include a nurse or health care person. We believe in local control and each of the districts have decided who serves on the committee that created a plan that is in the best interest of all who enter their school buildings.

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 429.