



Mission: "To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."

The Maine Parent Teacher Association is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in Maine. Our members include parents, educators, students, and others active in their schools and communities.

March 28, 2021

Supporting L.D. 429

An Act To Protect the Health of Students and Educators by Requiring the Establishment of Health and Safety Committees in School Administrative Units

To Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

We know that school staff across the state have done amazing work continuing to teach our children and youth during the COVID-19 pandemic and are doing their best to make sure in-school learning is available for students. In order for students to attend school in person, their families must feel secure that school is a safe place. We feel this bill addresses a critical component needed for that security: parents taking part in the planning.

Asking the local organized parent group or groups, if one exists, of each school administrative unit to select the parent participants is an excellent idea. That approach is likely to expand the search for a parent who is able to take part and expand the information going back into the community beyond the familiar faces frequently contacted by the local school administrator. We feel including the organized parent groups in the conversation whenever parents are sought for input would be a good idea.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virginia L. Mott".

Virginia L. Mott, Maine PTA Legislative Chair
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Parent Teacher Associations have a long, strong history of supporting children, families, and schools. PTA was founded in 1897; PTA began in Maine in 1916. PTA has played pivotal roles in children's health, nutrition, safety, justice, and, of course, education, and we continue to do so. Here in Maine we're in our second century as the state's largest all-volunteer child advocacy organization.