



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

A. PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

April 5, 2021

Senator Joseph Rafferty, Co-chair
Representative Michael Brennan, Co-chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Committee,

LD 880, An To Protect School Employees from Workplace Bullying, seeks to amend the law governing bullying in public schools to include a prohibition on the bullying of school employees. This bill would add school employees to the responsibilities of schools to respond to, investigate, and document all alleged incidents of bullying.

The Maine Department of Education recognizes that schools are not only a place of learning, but they are also worksites for school personnel. As stated in a joint statement on Commitment and Support for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Maine Schools, the Department is steadfast in our commitment in assisting schools to be welcoming and safe places for everyone. The Department consistently supports measures to improve school climate and culture for students, families, and school personnel including anti-bullying laws and procedures. All students and school personnel have the right to learn and work in positive, inclusive, and respectful environments.

The Department looks forward to continued conversations around LD 880 and will be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

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Bear Shea
Mental Health & School Counseling Specialist

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Kellie Bailey
Social Emotional Behavioral Learning Specialist

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w.bear.shea@maine.gov
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kellie.bailey@maine.gov
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