

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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TO: Joint Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
**RE: In Opposition of LD 1379: An Act to Establish a Lifetime
Substitute Teacher Certification for Established and
Successful Educators**
DATE: April 22, 2021

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and distinguished members of the Joint 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 1379. Substitute teachers are exceptionally difficult to find in most school districts in the state of Maine. By adding on an additional step to becoming certified as a "Lifetime Substitute Teacher" may discourage some from signing up to work in their local school system. They do not need a certificate to be a substitute teacher now and we are afraid that the passing of LD 1379 will make the position less desirable.

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote unanimously Ought Not To Pass on LD 1379.