

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



**50 Industrial Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330
(207) 622-0217**

**Fax: (207) 622-1513
Email: mpa@mpa.cc**

**Website:
<http://www.mpa.cc>**

Paula Callan
Messalonskee
High School
President

Lori Smail
Ames and Weymouth
Elementary Schools
President-elect

Michael R. Burnham
Executive Director
Interscholastic Division

Holly D. Couturier
Executive Director
Professional Division

Michael G. Bisson
Assistant Director

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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee

RE: In Opposition of LD 1502: An Act to Clarify Safety Issues in Schools with Respect to Health-Related States of Emergency

DATE: May 4, 2021

Senator Daughtry, 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, representing more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee unanimously opposes LD 1502. Maine is a local control state. If a specific county has been deemed a particular color by the Governor, it is up to the individual districts to decide how they need to respond to keep their students safe. The pandemic may only be in certain parts of the county and therefore some schools can stay open.

The other reason that the MPA Legislative Committee opposes this bill is because many of the steps listed in LD 1502 already exist. School administrators must report numbers to the Department of Education of students and/or staff who either test positive or were in close contact with a someone who tested positive for COVID. Adding in a report for the superintendent to inform the Governor is not necessary, especially when the Commissioner of Education has access to these numbers daily.

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote unanimously Ought Not to Pass on LD 1502.