

**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 1186: An Act to Require a Course Regarding the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Maine to be Taught to High School Seniors
DATE: May 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 1186. Teaching of the United States and State of Maine Constitutions are already in the Maine Learning Results. At what grade level these specific topics are taught is a determination to be made by the local school system. The passing of LD 1186 and adding this additional mandate to a student in their senior year, if it has not been determined that this is when they will be learning about the Constitutions, may restrict those students from taking dual enrollment classes and thus limit access to college courses. We cannot do this to our students.

The MPA urges the Committee to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 1186.