

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal
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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee

RE: Neither For Nor Against: LD 135: An Act to Address Issues in Funding Prekindergarten Programs

DATE: May 18, 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, representing more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The Maine Principals' Association is neither for nor against LD 135. Should the expectation be that all Maine elementary schools have a prekindergarten program, then it is our belief that the State should provide the funding for this program. Our concern is about the funding of the program itself. Should the funding for the prekindergarten programs come from the general education budget, this will take away funding from other important lines. We cannot support this. We do want equitable access for all students, and research shows that those who attend a prekindergarten program tend to be better prepared for school than those who do not, however this cannot be at the detriment of losing funds in other areas.

For these reasons, the MPA is neither for nor against LD 135.