

**MAINE  
PRINCIPALS'  
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal  
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**TO:** Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
**FROM:** Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee  
**RE:** In Support of LD 1679: An Act To Address Student Hunger through Expanding Access to Free School Meals  
**DATE:** May 20, 2021

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and distinguished members of the 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 Legislative Committee of the MPA unanimously supports LD 1679. We believe that the passing of this bill levels the playing field when it comes to food insecurity. By having both breakfast and lunch fully funded for all students, it removes the stigma for those who qualify for free and/or reduced lunch. During the time of the pandemic, and the meals were free for all students, more students have been eating two meals a day.

This will also eliminate the number of countless hours for food service providers and administrators that are spent chasing families for unpaid lunch bills or for families to fill out the forms to see if their child qualifies for free/reduced lunch.

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote Ought To Pass on LD 1679 – no child should go hungry for any reason and this bill will make sure that all students in Maine schools will no longer be food insecure.