

**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 98: An Act to Update the
Special Education Laws
DATE: January 31, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Dr. Holly Blair, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. The MPA represents more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against LD 98. Replacing the term “pupil evaluation team” with “individualized education program team” and updates references to deafness and blindness, as well as increasing the age of those enrolled in special education to 22 all align with other statues and for these reasons, we support the bill.

We are very concerned about “Educational programming may be full time or part time and must be equitable to that provided to typically developing same-age peers,” when discussing 20- to 22-year-old adults. There is no comparable length of school day for adults without disabilities within the same age outside of adult education and this varies tremendously. If being compared to adults who are in community college, if these adults with IEPs are being compared to those who are in community college, they should be in community college and not in the public education system.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 98.