

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
ASSOCIATION**



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*MPA is an Equal
Opportunity Organization*

TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
**RE: Neither for Nor Against LD 204: An Act To Ensure Safe
Access to Schools by Implementing Interlocking Door
Controller Technology**
DATE: March 21, 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 204. We are fully committed to keeping students safe. This is the only reason that we would support this bill.

Many Maine schools have a duel door entryway. Before and after school, these doors are unlocked to allow students to enter and leave the building. Having an interlocking system will be difficult to manage during off-school hours.

Schools have safety protocols in place. If the state is willing to pay for these interlocking doors, would they consider giving that money to the schools to improve the safety plans that they currently have. It is time to trust the professionals who have put these plans in place. Give them the funds to strengthen areas that they see fit, not where they are told.

For these reasons, the MPA is Neither For Nor Against LD 204.