

**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 1263: An Act to Require
School Identification Cards to Include the Telephone
Number of a Suicide Prevention Hotline**
DATE: April 5, 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 700 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals, CTE directors and assistant directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee is neither for nor against the LD 1263. We understand and support the concept of the bill. In speaking with some high school principals, there are some high schools who already have this information on their student badges. We also appreciate that this bill does not mandate the requirement for all schools to have badges.

Our concern with this bill is the requirement for those who do have badges to have to reprint them with the suicide hotline number on them. There will be a cost to the schools who may not have the funding to do so. This is a local decision and should not be a matter of legislation. We are also concerned that this may open the door for other information to be required to be printed on the badges in the future. For these reasons, the MPA is neither for nor against LD 1263.