

**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 1064: An Act to Increase the
Minimum Teacher Salary**
DATE: April 6, 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 1064. We believe that teachers are not paid what they should be and that this bill would be a great incentive for people to enter into the teaching profession. We encourage the progressive, incremental steps that are listed in the bill and consider them realistic and a step in the right direction.

Our concerns lie with the other, more veteran educators: teachers and administrators. This bill does not include an incremental step increase in salary to retain these educators. If this is not addressed, we will have first year teachers earning the same amount as those who have been in the profession for many years.

If this bill were amended to add in these additional incremental steps for all teachers AND administrators, we could fully support this bill.

For these reasons, the MPA is neither for nor against LD 1064.