

**MAINE  
PRINCIPALS'  
ASSOCIATION**



50 Industrial Drive  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
(207) 622-0217

Fax: (207) 622-1513  
Email: [mpa@mpa.cc](mailto:mpa@mpa.cc)

Websites:  
<https://mpaprof.org>  
<https://mpa.cc>

**Lori Smail**  
Winthrop Middle  
School  
President

**Mary Nadeau**  
Nokomis Regional High  
School  
President-elect

**Michael R. Burnham**  
Executive Director  
Interscholastic Division

**Holly D. Blair**  
Executive Director  
Professional Division

**Michael G. Bisson**  
Assistant Director

*MPA is an Equal  
Opportunity Organization*

**TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs**  
**FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee**  
**RE: In Support of LD 1491: An Act to Support Rural Education**  
**DATE: April 24, 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, assistant principals, CTE Directors and Assistant Directors of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee supports the passing of LD 1491. This bill will allow the Commissioner of Education to identify a person to be specifically hired to help recruit teachers in rural schools. This will help with the educator pipeline. We are also supportive of the \$3000 grant opportunities for students who are looking to become future educators.

Finally, we are supportive of the \$10,000 stipends that will be made available to the ongoing education for these new educators.

While we would like to see this opportunity made available to all educators, not just those in rural schools, we understand that it is these schools who have the most difficulty recruiting enough teachers to meet their needs.

The MPA urges the Committee to vote Ought to Pass LD 1491.